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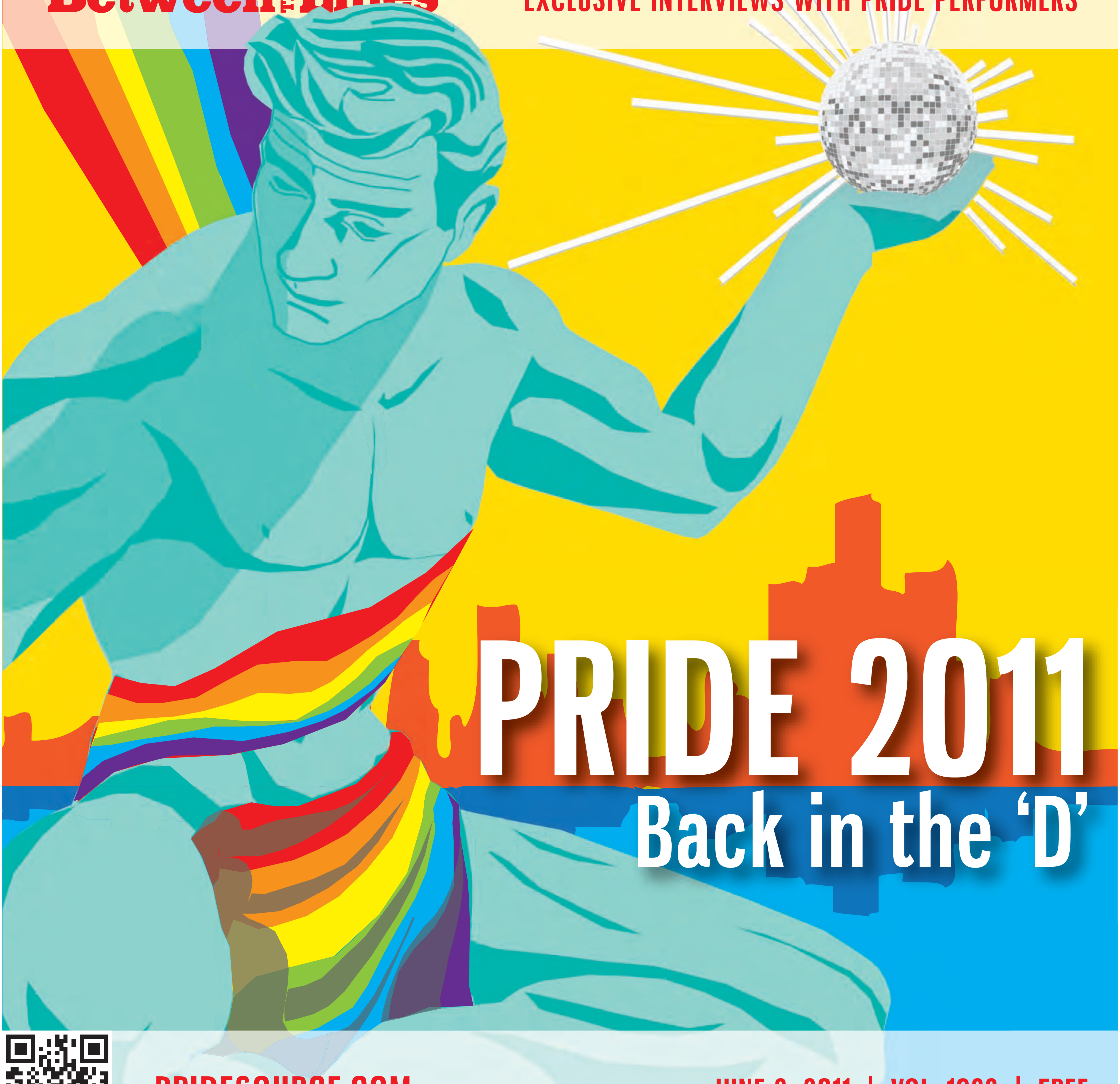

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Ferndale Pride f

www.FerndalePride.com

f **Downtown Ferndale**

Ferndale PRIDE June 3-5, 2011

Schedule of Activities

Friday June 3
"We Are Family" Pride Parade
6-7pm - Assemble Downtown Ferndale
@ W. Nine Mile Alley, behind Affirmations
7pm - Parade Steps Off
7:30pm - Rally @ Ferndale City Hall

"Illuminating Our Diversity" Night March
9 pm - Assembly @ Ferndale City Hall
6 -11 pm - Downtown Late Night Shopping
& Community Organization Displays

Saturday, June 4
Southeast Michigan Dyke March
1pm - Assemble Downtown Fenrdale
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3pm - March Steps Off
4pm - Rally & Picnic at Geary Park

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For more information, check out our Facebook event page by searching for "Washtenaw Pride Picnic"

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Scott Klee at scoklee@gmail.com

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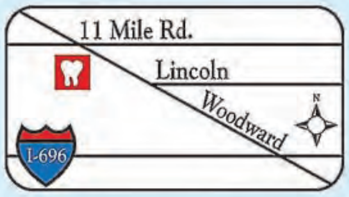

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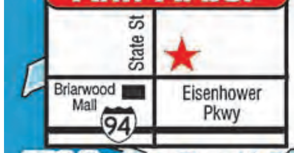

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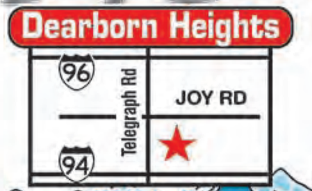

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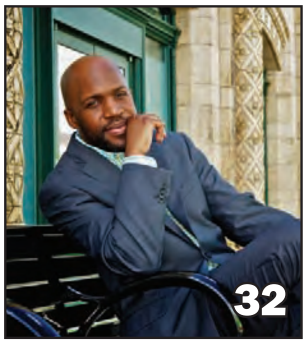

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Saturday, July 1 | Hill Auditorium, 8:00 pm | $75, $65, $55, $45, $35

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WEB WINS

On Facebook: Tickets to see The B-52s on June 16! And Rihanna (!), who plays June 14 at the Palace of Auburn Hills as part of her North American Loud Tour (for more information, visit www.livenation.com).

ONLINE EXCLUSIVES

Out of Town: Louisville and Lexington

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DADT repeal: Efforts to delay it, military trainings to implement it

Saugatuck schools: Soon to vote on including homosexuality in eighth grade sex-education classes

plus DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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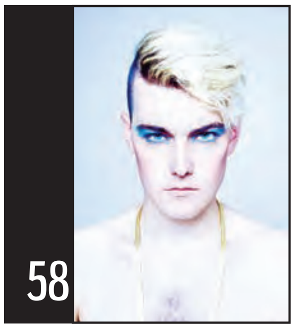

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Pride: Back in the 'D'
The Spirit of Detroit, a Motor City icon located on Woodward Avenue, draped in a rainbow flag and holding a disco ball. Illustration by John Fornoff.

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BTL @ Pride: Win Big!

Find us at Motor City Pride on June 4 & 5 at Hart Plaza in Detroit for chances to win some cool contests: concert tickets! a weekend getaway! restaurant gift cards! pet supplies! landscaping services! and a really cool electric scooter!

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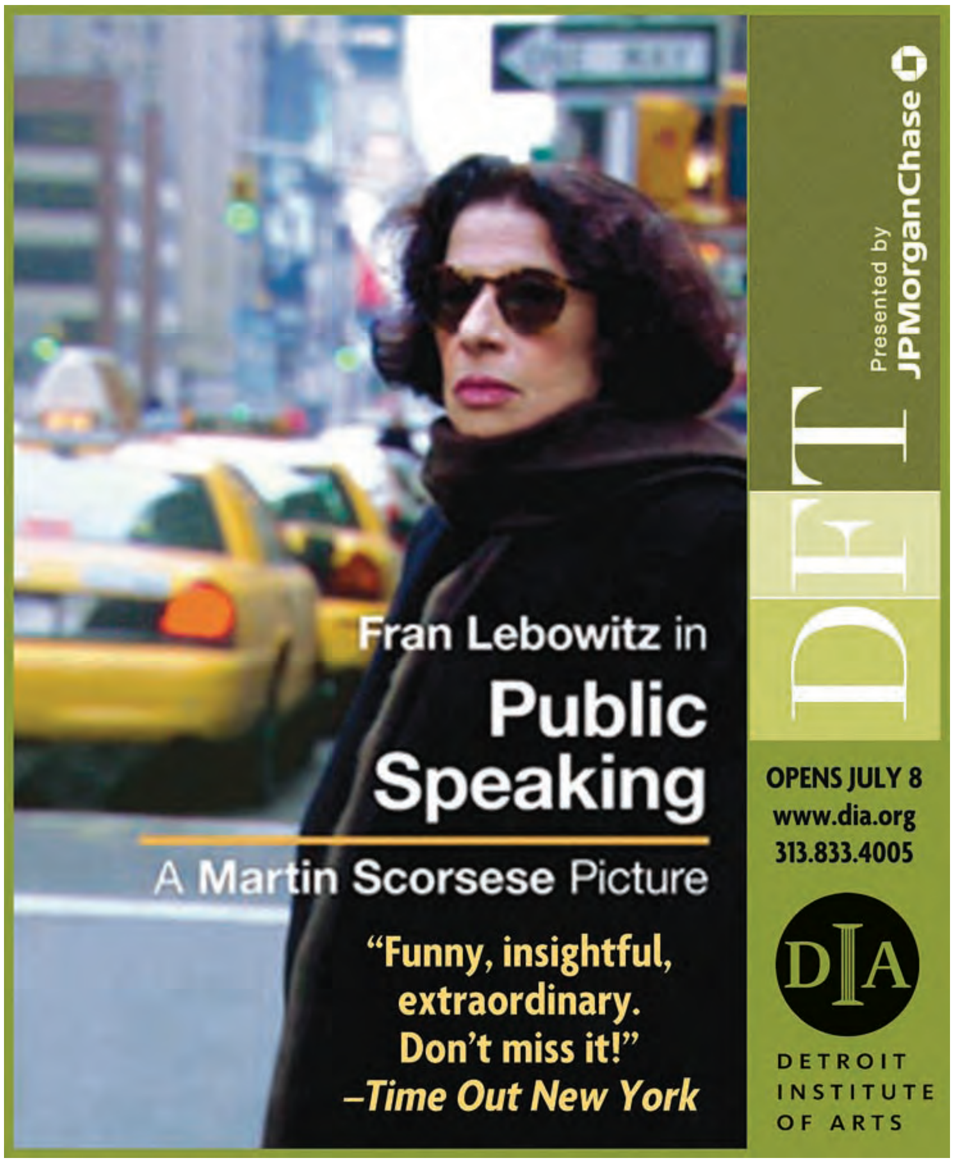

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WWW.DETROITPRIDEPROJECT.COM

March To The Capitol

Sat. June 11th @ 11am

March Lineup at 10am
March Steps off at 11am
(See Map for Route)
SHOW YOUR PRIDE, ENTER YOUR ORGANIZATION TO WIN THE FLOAT CHALLENGE

Rally at The Capitol Steps

Sat. June 11th
Following the March 12pm-1pm

EQUALITY MICHIGAN

-Mayor Virg Benero (invited)
- Denise E. Brogan – Kator (confirmed)
-Judith Kovoch (confirmed)
-Gov. Rick Snyder (invited)

Commitment Ceremony

Following the Rally
(Register online)

Old Town Commercial Association

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MICHIGAN PRIDE 2011

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Sat June 11th / 11am-8pm

Festival in Burchard Park in Lansing's Old Town

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Pop Goes the Gio Show
2pm

Kim Sorter
3pm

Baby Gaga
4:30pm

Sean Ensign
5pm

Mellisa Totten as Madonna
6pm

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7pm

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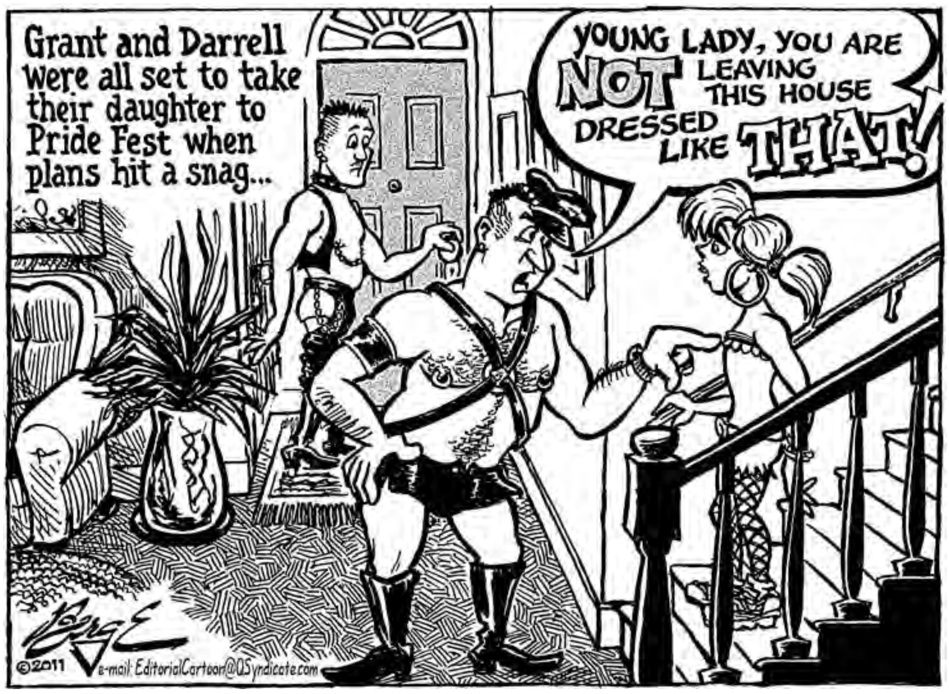
Grant and Darrell were all set to take their daughter to Pride Fest when plans hit a snag...
YOUNG LADY, YOU ARE NOT LEAVING THIS HOUSE DRESSED LIKE THAT!
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BTL Editorial

How are we going to provide a roadmap?

A wise man once said, "I think we owe a duty, and by we I mean LGBT organizations and programs, to set forth a road map: How are we going to get there, what's it going to take, what needs to happen? I think people have to have a clear understanding of what it all involves."

That wise man happens to be Jay Kaplan, the arm behind the ACLU of Michigan's LGBT project, and you can read more about him on page 40. He has an excellent point: with all that LGBTs are facing in Michigan, how are we going to guide us to a better place?

Let's start with where we are: You can take a look at "Out of the closet, under protected" on page 22 and see the basic ways LGBTs are discriminated against in Michigan. Or you can read about Chris Armstrong on page 38, the openly gay University of Michigan graduate who was harassed by then-Assistant Attorney General Andrew Shirvell last fall. We live in a state where Shirvell was fired for blogging on company time – not for harassing and stalking a college student because he was gay.

Sure, things here aren't shockingly terrible – we're not Tennessee with its "Don't say gay" bill (and if you don't know what that is, Google it, for heaven's sake) – but things are pretty terrible, and they cannot be ignored.

Another wise man once said, "I challenge us to remember that we are all in this movement together. We gotta work it out. Together."

That wise man was Curtis Lipscomb, the executive director of KICK, and you can read about him on pages 14 and 32. He too has an excellent point: We are all in this together, and we are going to work it out.

So we say to you: enjoy Motor City Pride this weekend. Enjoy its return home to Detroit as it kicks off a month of Pride celebrations nationwide. Enjoy the sun, the food and the performances in Hart Plaza. Enjoy the drinks, DJs and dance parties. And when all the fun is over, we challenge you to think about how we are in this movement together. How are we going to utilize our strengths to work toward our common goal of equality? How will we support one another and make up for each other's weaknesses?

> When all the fun is over, we challenge you to think about how we are in this movement together, and how we're going to work it out together.

Motor City Pride's return to Detroit is a signal that we are ready to leave behind antiquated laws that don't defend us and also, more importantly, the overwhelming sense of complacency felt by many: that if things aren't life-threateningly terrible for us LGBTs, well then they're OK.

It's not OK.

We need a road map. We need a unified plan. We will make life more than just OK for us in this state. But we're only going to do it together.

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8pm – Grand Café with Kathy Ford Band
8pm – Esquire Bar – White out party with the guys
www.MichiganPride.org

Between All of Us

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

Here are some of the inspiring volunteers and organizers featured during the past year in BTL's Between Ourselves. The biweekly column showcases people who are doing good work for the LGBT community – and who might otherwise go unnoticed. If you know of someone who should be featured in Between Ourselves, email our news editor Tara Cavanaugh at tara@pridesource.com.

I love that legislators most often appreciate a good argument, and by that I mean an informed argument.

–Emily Dievendorf, policy director at Equality Michigan

KICK does a lot of positive things for the black community. It's an outstanding organization. We're here for the people. And if you need help, don't hesitate to call.

–Tony Johnson, longtime volunteer at KICK

The only way we're going to be able to effectively battle discrimination is to put ourselves out there.

–Alex Krasicky, intern and office coordinator at Transgender Michigan

I'm
Facing AIDS
by creating
change

You have to look at ways to change the way you're giving information to the public. You can't keep saying, "come to our health fair." You have to go into the public's homes and put information in their hands.

–Mike Wallace, member of the AmeriCorps HIV/AIDS Team Detroit

See Between Ourselves, page 28

Happy 25th! Time to plan for our 40th

BY TIM RETZLOFF

Responding several months ago to Equality Michigan's decision to move Motor City Pride from Ferndale to Hart Plaza, Oakland County Commissioner and former Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey noted in his Covey's Corner blog that this year marks 25 years since Detroit held its "first pride parade," an event he was instrumental in organizing. He deserves boundless thanks for his leadership in making that event happen, not in the least because of the enormous fear people had about marching in public – as seen by coverage leading up to the event published in Cruise magazine. His role was crucial in stoking a new wave of activism in the wake of AIDS and the cruel indifference of the Reagan administration.

The 1986 parade also was personally significant for me as the first pride event I ever attended. I was then 22 and it was an exhilarating entrée into a wider grassroots movement that seven years later would land me on the catwalk in front of the stage at the 1993 March on Washington, press badge from Between The Lines dangling from my neck as I looked out on a fierce crowd of over half a million LGBT people and allies, never again to feel I was the only one in the world. My elation in marching in 1986, however, was punctured the very next day when the U.S. Supreme Court declared in Bowers v. Hardwick that consensual sodomy was not protected by the Constitution. Such were the heady times of a quarter of a century ago.

But the gay procession down Woodward 25 years ago was not Detroit's first, and our local queer history did not begin in 1986. The Motor City's first pride march, Christopher Street Detroit '72, took place June 24, 1972, two and a half years after the founding of the Detroit Gay Liberation Front in January 1970. We owe a debt to those who paved the way before us. However, it might seem our individual entrées were not starting points but continuations. Local queer history did not begin when we first built up the courage to walk into Menjo's in 1974 or into Stilletto's in 1999 or into Soho last week.

> The gay procession down Woodward 25 years ago was not Detroit's first, and our local queer history did not begin in 1986.

Stilletto's, after all, began as the Cruise Club before becoming Tooter's before becoming Cruisin' Again before becoming Silent Legacy. While we are not actually doomed to repeat the past if we don't know our history – the convergence of actors, social forces, technology, and culture are all unique to a given time – we do miss out on the vital lessons that our history can teach us if we choose to forget.

And, as Commissioner Covey's perspective honestly reveals, the march in 1972 has largely been forgotten. Why is this so?

For one, the 1972 march and the opening that same week of Green Carnation, the city's first gay community center, located at 660 Virginia Park, were followed within six months by a dramatic factional upheaval between radicals and moderates that left one activist with shotgun wounds and much of the community in splinters. As such, many of the key leaders of the early 1970s either left metro Detroit or retreated from local activism, exhausted or disillusioned or bitter. At the same time, the militant spirit of gay liberation was on the wane nationwide, as was the fervor of so many other social movements. In the mid-1970s, new groups like Dignity/Detroit, the Association of Suburban People, and the Michigan Organization for Human Rights emerged with new personalities like Brian McNaught, Henry Messer, and the Rev. Nancy Wilson, all largely unaware of the trailblazers who had come before.

After the first march in 1972, similar marches were held until 1976; then for ten years Detroiters did not take to the streets but instead celebrated pride with festivals and picnics. By 1986, the earlier marches had begun to fade from collective memory.

With all due respect to Detroit's first gay pride *parade*, much deserving of celebrating, we ought not to forget Detroit's first gay pride *march*. As we approach the 40th anniversary of Christopher Street Detroit '72, we should pledge to commemorate it in June 2012 with as spirited and vibrant a celebration as this community can muster. While some of the participants, like Ken Dudley and Rodger Keller, are deceased, many others are still living and should be invited to take part, not just to be recognized but also to witness the wondrous decades of change they helped to spark.

Let the planning begin!

Tim Retzloff, assistant editor of Between The Lines in the mid-1990s, is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Yale University. He is writing his dissertation on gay and lesbian life in metropolitan Detroit from 1945 to 1985.

We're all in this movement together

BY CURTIS LIPSCOMB

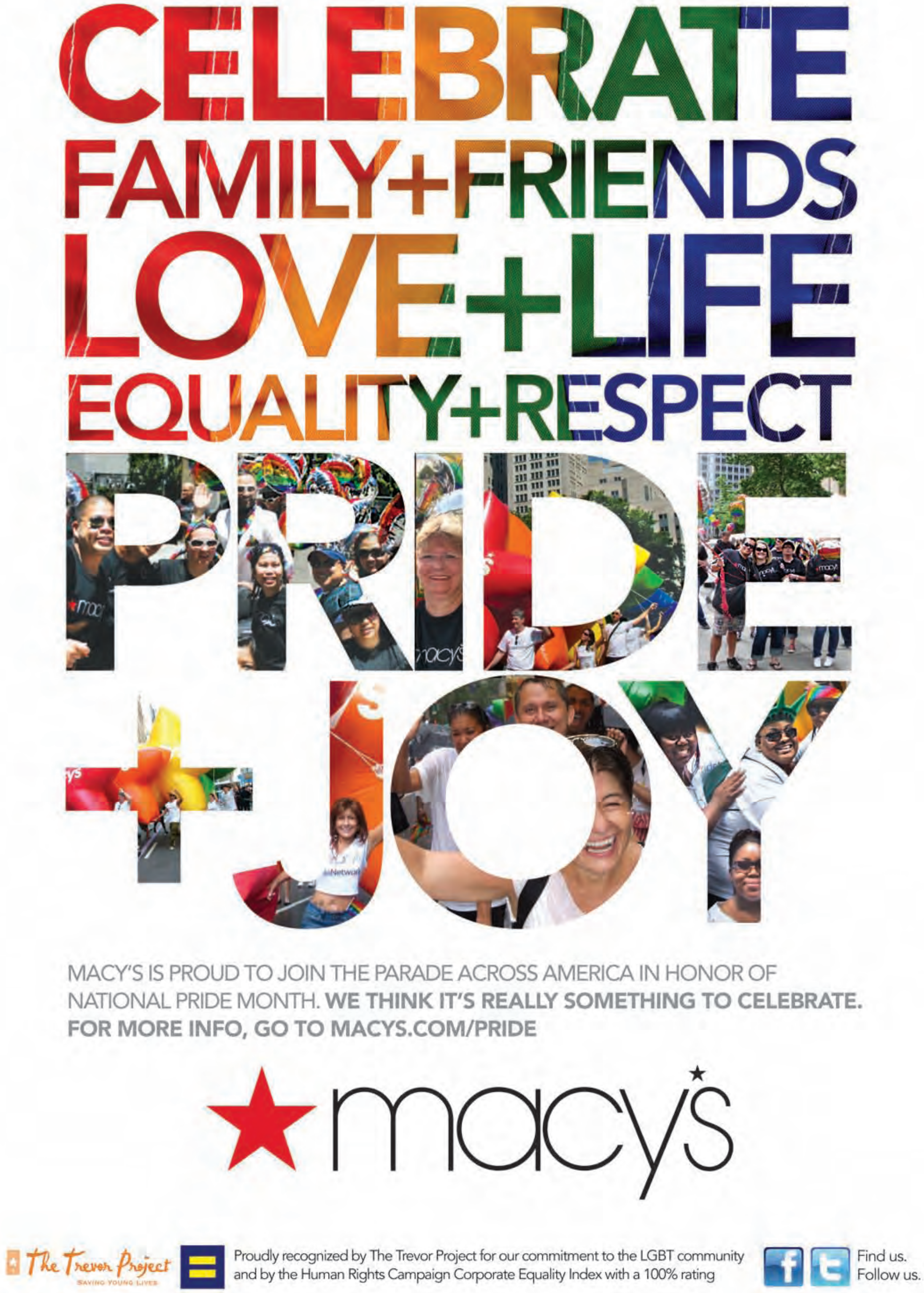
Welcome, Motor City Pride, to Detroit! Whether you cross the city of Detroit boundaries via M-10 from Oakland County or you cross over 8 Mile Road from Macomb County, you will see displayed a green sign with bright white words that read "Detroit – City Limit." That sign welcomes you to the Motor City, a city that survives through perseverance and media scrutiny, with a certain synergy that ignites the air and unites its residents to proudly display their Old English D and shout, "Welcome to the D!" So as Motor City Pride crosses the legendary city boundary with Ferndale in its rear-view mirror, Detroit's already established LGBT community welcomes you to our city and we welcome this big new thing!

I vividly remember when it was said, "There couldn't be a Pride within Detroit." But in 1996 "Hotter Than July!" Pride was established for LGBT community and will host its 16th annual celebration this July. Although Detroit is a major player on the global front in industry and commerce, the culture of the city is sometimes outdated to fit current times. Other major U.S. cities wrap their arms around their LGBT communities and cultivate the communities with booming city sectors that display vibrant LGBT businesses, families, and outreach programs. Although Detroit may not be known by some for warmly embracing its LGBT residents as of yet, the move of Motor City Pride to downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza indicates that the times are a-changing. I enthusiastically applaud Motor City Pride's forward-thinking action.

> Although Detroit may not be known by some for warmly embracing its LGBT residents as of yet, the move of Motor City Pride to downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza indicates that the times are a-changing.

I applaud the decision to make Pride bigger and more visible. We applaud the decision to use Detroit's international riverfront to display the diversity of our rainbow-colored people. And because the LGBT community is a rainbow of people, I challenge us to remember that we are all in this movement together. We gotta work it out. Together.

Curtis Lipscomb is the executive director of KICK – The Agency for LGBT African-Americans and co-founder of Hotter Than July! Learn more about KICK at www.e-kick.org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Support local GLSEN at June fundraiser

DETROIT – GLSEN of Southeast Michigan is planning a fundraising event on June 18 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Detroit Yacht Club. The evening will include appetizers, a cash bar, and a raffle along with a presentation by chapter youth members dramatizing their experiences in school. Tickets for the event are $50 and can be purchased by contacting GLSEN Southeast Michigan's Co-Chair Jane Kelley at 248-203-0191 or jekphd@gmail.com. There are opportunities for event sponsorship starting at $100; individuals interested in more information about sponsorship should also contact Kelley.

Metro Health Foundation supports Ruth Ellis Center

HIGHLAND PARK – Metro Health Foundation is continuing its support for the Ruth Ellis Center for a second year with a $10,000 grant to help fund the center's Health Care Navigation Program. Ruth Ellis Center is the only organization in the Midwest, and one of only three in the nation, dedicated to homeless, at-risk and runaway youth who are LGBTQ. The Health Care Navigation Program helps the youth access medical care and case management services.

"Lack of health care services for LGBTQ homeless youth is an ongoing problem that needs ongoing attention," said Laura Hughes, executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center. "The continued support from Metro Health Foundation is helping our youth receive medical attention now that will serve their health for the future. We are so thankful for the assistance to fund our Health Navigation Program. "

The Health Care Navigator Program is part of Ruth Ellis Center's Transitional Living Program, which provides housing and life skills training for homeless LGBTQ youth ages 17 to 21 years for up to 21 months as they establish a smooth transition to independence.

The Metro Health Foundation is a private Detroit grant-making foundation supporting Michigan organizations in healthcare and health-related fields.

The Center's mission is to provide short-term and long-term safe space through Ruth's House, a full-time residential program that is a State of Michigan licensed Child Caring Institution; and the Drop-in Center, a facility that offers youth resources such as full meals, gender identity support groups, on-site mental health therapy, laundry facility and clothing, a cyber center, and recreation.

For more information, visit Ruth Ellis Center's website at www.ruthelliscenter.org or its Facebook page.

Attendees celebrate at last year's Kalamazoo Pride festival. Photo supplied by the Kalamzoo Gay and Lesbian Resource center.

Local fun, flair marks Kalamzoo Pride's fourth year

Festival features Nervous but Excited, Dollhouse Productions, Dunyua Drummers

BY JEREMY MARTIN

Adam Carter is gearing up to co-MC Kalamazoo Pride 2011 and he has every intention to be seen, even from a distance. The Kalamazoo-based actor, activist and educator has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping organize this year's festival, and that includes finding the perfect pair of shoes.

"Planning a pride outfit is really intense so I looked online and found 5-and-three-quarter inch concealed platforms that are completely rhinestone studded. Walking in heels has never been an issue for me, but these are taking some practice," Carter concedes.

Now in its fourth year, and second at the outdoor Arcadia Creek Festival Site, Kalamazoo Pride, which is organized by the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center, will showcase a litany of local musicians, entertainers, artisans, and food vendors, all with the goal of celebrating the strides towards full acceptance that the Kalamazoo LGBT community has made – and also to highlight the long road ahead.

"This is a community that has developed leaps and bounds. The people that we have here are really special. The way they have embraced the LGBT community is just phenomenal," said Zachary Bauer, communications director for the center.

Carter, besides being an in-demand local actor who also educates area students on the importance of self awareness and open mindedness, believes that much change has come through outreach programs and the instilling of patience and acceptance in today's youth.

M.C-ing events like Pride help Carter to spread that message to an even larger cross section of the community.

"I never thought of myself as an LGBT activist, that wasn't anything I necessarily planned on, but it just sort of happened," said Carter, who will be co-hosting the event with Jennette Maddock, a drag king who performs under the name "G.Q. Joe."

Kalamazoo Pride 2011

Saturday, June 11, 2 p.m.-11 p.m.
Arcadia Creek Festival Site
Downtown Kalamazoo, 269-349-4234
Free to enter
www.kglrc.org

One person who made a very conscious decision to become not only an activist, but also a figurehead in the LGBT community, is Ignacio Rivera, this year's keynote speaker.

Traveling from Brooklyn, N.Y., Rivera, who prefers the gender-neutral pronoun "they," is a multi-faceted artist, poet, filmmaker and storyteller. As the founder of Poly Pateo Productions, or P3, Rivera produces sex-positive workshops, films, activities and performances in and around the Brooklyn area. They have also been a regular on the national lecture circuit for more than fifteen years, speaking on college campuses and at festivals like Pride.

The resource center will also be on hand to inform festival-goers of issues and actives in which they can partake.

"We put a lot of pride in ensuring that the programming we participate in is up front at the site," Bauer said. "So whether it be our youth programs, the triangle mentorship, or other activities, all of these are going to be up front for everyone there to learn and to understand what the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Recourse Center is doing."

Education and activism will be just one facet of the day. Also on the docket will be musical performances by Ann Arbor folk duo Nervous but Excited, Kalamazoo's Dunyua Drummers and Pop Goes the Geo, a Chicago based variety group that has appeared on Logo TV and MTV's "Making the Band."

"It's important to just be able to celebrate. It's a very uplifting day, completely family friendly, at least up until the nighttime hours – then it gets a bit racy," Carter said.

Enter Dollhouse Productions, the festival's closing act. The local drag company will perform two sets: one titled "Dollhouse invades Pride" and the other "Dollhouse pops Pride," the themes of which are both top secret.

Corporate funding for Pride 2011 comes from a number of local and national organizations, including PNC Financial Services and the Kellogg Corporation of Battle Creek, which will add to the family friendly atmosphere by hosting a children's area.

Events schedule

Welcome Address 2:00-2:15
LeSouk 2:15-3:00
Community Showcase 3:00-5:00
Nervous But Excited 5:00-6:00
Sean McCann 6:00-6:15
Ignacio Rivera – Keynote Address 6:15-7:00
Dunyua Drummers 7:00-8:00
Doll House Invades Pride 8:00-9:00
Pop Goes the Gio 9:00-10:00
Doll House Pops Pride 10:00-11:00
Childrens activity tent all day

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HARC

Ill. diocese ends adoptions over gay rights law

Civil unions legal in state as of June 1

BY TAMMY WEBBER

CHICAGO (AP) – A Catholic diocese in northern Illinois said on May 26 that it will end its state-funded adoption and foster-care program rather than comply with a new law that would require it to place children with gay or unmarried couples, and officials said other dioceses would decide quickly whether to follow suit.

Officials from the Rockford Diocese said they were forced to terminate state contracts worth $7.5 million after lawmakers failed to pass an amendment exempting religious groups from provisions of the state's new civil unions law, which will let gay and lesbian couples form civil unions, a rough equivalent to marriage. The law takes effect June 1.

Catholic Charities wanted to be allowed to refer unmarried or gay couples to other agencies, as it has for years.

Diocese officials said Thursday that allowing such adoptions or foster placements would violate teachings of the Catholic faith.

"The law of our land has always guaranteed its people freedom of religion," diocese spokeswoman Penny Wiegert said. "Denying this exemption to faith-based agencies leads one to believe that our lawmakers prefer laws that guarantee freedom from religion."

The Civil Rights Agenda, a gay rights advocacy group, issued a statement calling the diocese's decision "a sad display of bigotry" and said religious freedom "is granted only when the religious agency is not funded by taxpayer dollars."

"I am mindful that this is a sad day for the many foster families and parents involved and the children who are in the care of Catholic Charities," TCRA Executive Director Anthony Martinez said.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services officials said there are enough private child welfare agencies to take over foster placement and adoptions for the roughly 300 children in the Rockford Diocese's foster-care program when it ends June 1.

"Catholic Charities in Rockford has served children and families with compassion for many years, and we thank them for their service," DCFS Director Erwin McEwen said in a written statement. "We will take every step necessary to ensure that the children are well cared for and the foster families are well supported during this transition."

Rockford and four other Catholic dioceses in Illinois are among 45 private agencies that provide state-funded adoption and foster-care services, DCFS spokesman Kendall Marlowe said. The dioceses provide services to about 2,300 of the 15,000 children in the foster-care system, while two other religious groups provide care to about 1,000 children, Marlowe said.

He said some of the 42 caseworkers in the Rockford Diocese could be hired by new agencies.

Catholic charity groups place children only with married couples or single people – not with couples living together. They consider couples in civil unions to be unmarried and therefore not eligible to adopt or provide foster care through their programs.

But refusing to place children with gay couples could open the charities to lawsuits or lead state government to cut off funding.

Leaders of the Catholic groups have said they aren't trying to keep gay couples from adopting or taking in foster children – just that it's a matter of having those couples work with other groups.

Catholic officials said they hope the Rockford Diocese's decision will persuade the General Assembly to reconsider such an exemption.

But if it doesn't, other dioceses could decide to withdraw from the state program, said Bob Gilligan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Illinois.

"We're not bluffing. This is a serious issue," said Gilligan, who said other dioceses will decide on the fate of their programs within a week to 10 days after the new state law takes effect. "No diocese is going to willingly put a child in a same-sex household."

NYC mayor makes case for gay marriage law

Polls show waning citizen support of law

BY SAMANTHA GROSS

NEW YORK (AP) – Mayor Michael Bloomberg warned state lawmakers on May 26 that if they oppose legalizing gay marriage they may be remembered as civil rights obstructionists similar to those who opposed the abolition of slavery and fought against giving women the right to vote.

"The question for every New York state lawmaker is: Do you want to be remembered as a leader on civil rights? Or an obstructionist? On matters of freedom and equality, history has not remembered obstructionists kindly," Bloomberg said in his speech at The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in Manhattan.

Bloomberg argued that failing to legalize gay marriage in New York, which he called the birthplace of the gay-rights movement, would have economic consequences as well as human ones.

"As other states recognize the rights of same-sex couples to marry, we cannot stand by and watch. To do so would be to betray our civic values and history – and it would harm our competitive edge in the global economy," he said.

Bloomberg said he could not look into the eyes of his niece Rachel Tiven, who is gay, and tell her a civil union should be good enough. Tiven, who introduced her uncle's speech, is the executive director of Immigration Equality, a group that advocates for equal immigration rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and HIV-positive people.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has been pushing the Legislature to make gay marriage legal, but has said he wouldn't bring the issue to a vote unless he felt it would pass. The mayor argued that the state's residents deserve to see where their legislators stand, whatever the outcome.

In Albany, same-sex marriage is tightly contested now that those opposed to legalization have committed $1.5 million to the effort, matching the supporters' campaign fund. Senate Republicans, who are key to the effort, also are closely watching polls, which for the first time in months are showing an apparent slight erosion of public support for gay marriage after months of steady gains.

State Sen. Ruben Diaz, a Democrat from the Bronx, has been arguing against the measure. He said Thursday that legislators, rather than residents, imposed gay marriage in states where it is legal.

"When people have been given the chance to vote, they have rejected it," Diaz said.

Ross Levi, executive director of advocacy group Empire State Pride Agenda, argued after Bloomberg's speech that gay marriage has broad support in New York state.

"This is now a solid majority issue," he said, citing strong support from residents in New York City suburbs – areas that he argued are particularly important to the state's Republican lawmakers.

Last week, a Siena College poll showed 52 percent of New York voters supported gay marriage, while opposition was at 42 percent – a four-point drop in support and a six-point jump in opposition from a month earlier. The margin of error for the poll was 3.4 percent.

The measure is being negotiated in private by Cuomo and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who support gay marriage, and Senate Republican leader Dean Skelos, who personally opposes legalization.

Three veteran Republican senators told The Associated Press last week that they have seen no change in votes in their conference. The measure lost in the Senate in 2009.

Bloomberg has lobbied the Republican senators for whom he is a major campaign funder. But no senator has publicly said he or she will switch to supporting gay marriage.

The mayor argued Thursday that same-sex equality is a key ingredient to the nation's largest metropolis.

"That's what always has set us apart. In our city, there is no shame in being true to yourself. There is only pride. We take you as you are – and we let you be who you wish to be," he said.

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Heard on Facebook

How excited are you for Motor City Pride?

I am super-stoked for Motor City Pride finally being celebrated in Downtown Detroit! Funny that my family used to feel "unsafe" watching the Freedom Festival fireworks in Detroit, so we crossed over to Canada. (I couldn't get married here – so I, once again, crossed over to Canada.) The only thing we have to fear is fear itself (and its byproducts, silence, invisibility and marginilization). Can't wait to hold my husband's hand in Hart Plaza and shout, "We're here, we're queer..."
–Peter M. Spencer

EXCITED! This will be our first year going, we are going to meet some friends and have lots of fun!
–Dana Holly Bartush

Not at all. Too confusing. The split is a terrible idea. Nobody I know is going. Sorry.
–Martin Collica

I'm excited and saddened that people have such negative feelings about Detroit! Detroit like every other city has its problems, but stop being part of the problem and take the first step in being part of the solution. Take this opportunity to teach and show people that we are loving family people just like them! Show your pride!
–April Mason

Excited and just as excited for Ferndale Pride!
–Julia Music

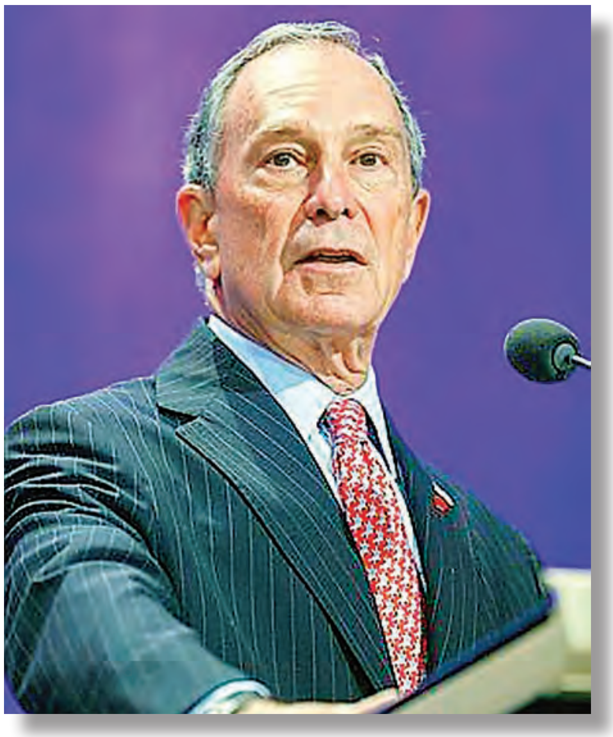
Comments may be edited for grammar and length.

Join the conversation ...

Search: "Between The Lines Newspaper"

COMPILED BY HOWARD ISRAEL

Marriage rights, 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'



NYC Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

"On matters of freedom and equality, history has not remembered obstructionists kindly. Not on abolition. Not on women's suffrage. Not on workers' rights. Not on civil rights. And it will be no different on marriage rights."

–New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, in a speech to the state legislature, calling on New York to "lead the American journey forward" by legalizing same-sex marriage this year, nytimes.com, May 26.

Master Sgt. Salvatore Cardella

"I've had somebody throw the question at me, 'What do you call a Marine who's homosexual?' I call them a Marine. It's really that basic."

–Master Sgt. Salvatore Cardella, about Marine training sessions held to prepare for the lifting of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the ban on gays serving openly in the military, in an article titled "For Marines, Little Drama Over Lifting 'Don't Ask,'" Wall Street Journal Blogs, blogs.wsj.com, May 25.

Bishop Thomas Doran of Rockford, IL

"It's the moral teaching of our faith that we believe in the natural order of marriage. In order to serve our children best, we believe that they be in that kind of a family. This is not a judgment on whether or not they are loving or capable. We are strictly following the teachings passed down by our faith."

–Ellen Lynch, general counsel for the Catholic Diocese of Rockford, Ill., in an announcement that the diocese will end its state-funded adoption and foster care programs at Catholic Charities in Rockford rather than be forced to serve same-sex or unmarried opposite-sex couples, Rockford Register Star, www.rrstar.com, May 27. Illinois, the sixth state to recognize same-sex unions, will begin to offer civil union licenses on June 1.

Aaron Belkin

"The Department of Defense has made it clear that there will be no change in the way chaplains conduct their business once the ban is lifted. This is yet another example of people with traditional and, quite frankly, anti-gay views demanding protection for something that doesn't need protection."

–Aaron Belkin, director, Palm Center at the University of California, about a letter the leaders of 21 religious groups sent to the Pentagon, wanting guarantees that troops and chaplains won't be punished if they openly discuss their objections to homosexuality and same-sex marriage when the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy is lifted, Associated Press hosted.ap.org, May 23.

BTL Parting Glances

Then and Now

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Hart arrhythmias recalled

I have a scrapbook my mother put together sometime after I came out to her in 1973, a year after my father died. She wrote a note to go with it. Her supportive words I've committed to memory.

"Charles Robert! How things might have been so wonderfully better for us had you shared the one truth about yourself that kept unnecessary distance between us. Openness is healing. Trust, an act of love for me. A gift, to be sure."

The "treasures" she thoughtfully pasted in the lifetime memento include my birth announcement (7-1/2 pounds), early drawings, kindergarten good citizen tokens, embarrassing report cards (C minuses in spelling), my first shorn lock of spun-gold hair.

(I've been asked to donate that iconic relic for the Pride Banquet 2011 Silent Auction; but I choose to keep the snippet as a reminder I was once an angelic, Madonna-like blond. Virginal. And actually had hair.)

When I told my mom I was gay, she paused. "I haven't been around as long as I have, read as many true-to-life novels, not to know." (Now she tells me, I mused. Why couldn't we have talked about this one 500-page "War and Peace" earlier?)

Shortly thereafter Jane Alexander met my friends, attended Unlimited Seniors get-togethers, visited MCC-Detroit. With her easy-going ways, friendly smile, American Baptist affiliation background, she fit right in. Happily so.

(Interestingly enough: my parents never asked me, Who are you dating? When are you going to get married? It certainly removed pressure to make up stories. Two of my gay partners my folks met – not aware they were gay – and thought they were tops. Actually they were.)

Pride Weekend 2011 in a new setting is about accepting – demonstrating – the honest freedom that one's biological, mental, and emotional self is L, G, B or T. Without too much prompting I'm devoting this PG to celebrate that I've been "in the life" for 55 self-actualizing years.

It's important to underscore "emotional" because too many straights – and many gays – think that being out's all about sex. Period. It's not. (Well, maybe 82.7 percent.) While sex is (or should be) mind-blowing, closeness, intimacy, friendship, sharing, warmth, caring for another are the real catalysts for personal growth and fulfillment. (Ask your mom.)

My scrapbook also contains a kindergarten photo: my class, teacher chaperoned by tiny Mrs. Williamson. To my right is a towhead kid named Mel, who provided my first hands-on "gay" experience. An initiation at age 13 that lasted several sessions of lower-bunk wrestling, hammer-locking, knee jerking. For starters.

Mel's mom, a waitress, worked days. Ron, his brother, was usually out swatting baseballs. After our "tag team matches," Mel allowed me to help myself from the kitchen fridge, sort of a bribe for services rendered in the name of amateur, on-the-mat sports.

One day – out of the black and blew – Mel sidelined our activity. "We better stop doing this," he said offhandedly, offering a placating peanut butter/jelly sandwich. "Why?" said I, new to buff matters of indoor sporting – and enjoying a deliciously crunchy treat. "Because," he jabbed me, "we'll grow up to be QUEER!" (That's news to me, I nibbled away, unconcerned by his revelation.)

Fresh out of high school I joined Detroit's thriving gay community (four downtown bars, two teenager hangouts). Many a warm summer evening I stood on the corner of Farmer & Bates, taking part in the constant flow of secret, closeted, celebration, unnoticed by the go-home-at-5 business world.

The corners met in walking distance to Old City Hall; and – sorry for many – the First Precinct Police Station. Now, it's June 2011: nearby Hart Plaza. No way, said I at 19. Way to go, say I at 75. Right on!

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SHORT ANSWER

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SHORT ANSWER

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HOW MICHIGAN LAW MAKES LGBT DISCRIMINATION LEGAL

ILLUSTRATION BY TARA CAVANAUGH

WHY?

Our state's **Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act** prohibits discriminatory practices in housing and employment based on religion, race, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, familial status and marital status. Sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are not included. This means **openly discriminating against LGBTs is technically not illegal in Michigan.**

SOME HOPE

The Human Rights Campaign Corporate Equality index rates U.S. employers on their policies towards LGBTs. Find it online at www.hrc.org.

SOME HOPE

If you think you've been denied housing or kicked out because you're LGBT, you can **file a complaint with Housing and Urban Development at hud.gov.** HUD conducted the first study of LGBT housing discrimination last year. While it cannot punish lenders or landlords for discriminatory practices, it 1) wants to keep compiling reports of LGBT discrimination and 2) can point you to cities and states that have laws against LGBT discrimination in housing.

What can I do?

Tell your representative to vote for House Bill 4192, which would add sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression to the list of classes protected under Elliott-Larsen. You can also **encourage your city council to pass a human-rights ordinance** that bans companies in the city from discriminating against LGBTs in housing and employment.

WHY?

Proposal 2, voted on in 2004, added an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits same-sex marriages or civil unions.

NOT-SO-FUN FACT

Thanks to a State Supreme Court ruling in 2008, Proposal 2 also means **public employers are not allowed to offer health benefits for same-sex partners.** In response, many public employers (such as universities) relaxed their eligibility rules for benefits. But this practice has recently come under attack by state Republican lawmakers and Attorney General Bill Schuette.

WHY?

Michigan has a widely practiced, but not officially legal, **ban on second-parent adoption.** Second-parent adoption is how same-sex couples adopt kids together. Because of the ban, your child will only be allowed one legal parent. This also means if you and your partner break up, only one of you has legal rights to visit the child.

SOME HOPE

A state representative and a state senator, both from Ann Arbor, are working to get HB-4131 passed. **This bill would legally allow second-parent adoption.** It was first introduced in 2009.

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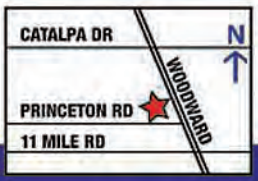

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The history of Motor City Pride

COMPILED BY BENJAMIN JENKINS

1972 – The Michigan Gay Confederation organized Detroit's very first gay pride march. It was known as "Christopher Street Detroit '72," named after the location of the 1969 Stonewall Riots.

1974 – The first openly lesbian politician elected in the U.S., Kathy Kozachenko of Ann Arbor, spoke at Detroit's third march, traveling down Woodward Ave.

1982 – The newly formed Detroit Area Gay and Lesbian Council began to organize Detroit's gay and lesbian pride, titling the event "Celebration '82." The group organized a dinner, picnic, memorial service as well as various other events throughout the metro area.

1984 – DAGLC held the 1984 Pride Festival on July 1, on Wayne State University's campus in downtown Detroit.

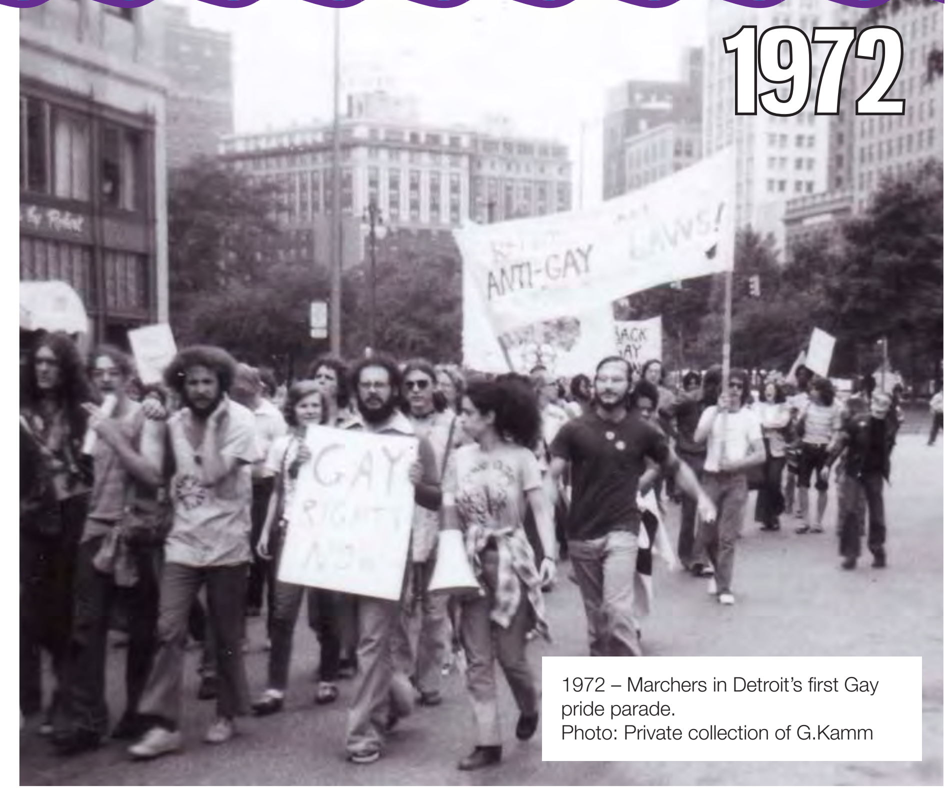
1985 – Michigan Organization for Human Rights hired Craig Covey to begin organizing a pride parade.

1986 – MOHR created "Forward Together," a statewide pride/civil rights parade in downtown Detroit.

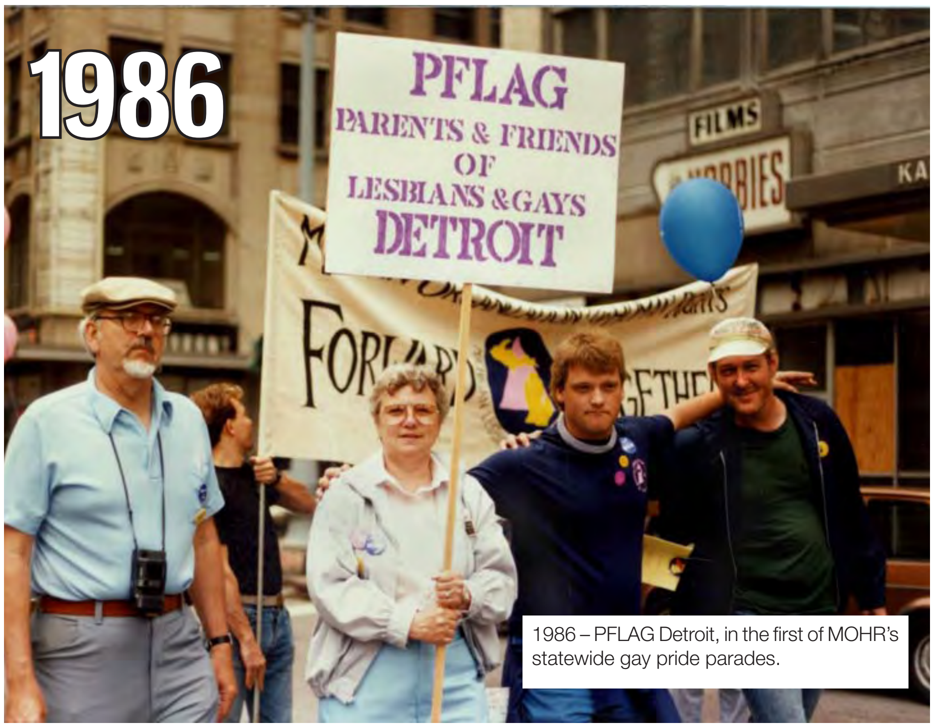
1989 – MOHR moved their pride parade to Lansing in hopes of attracting more statewide participation and news coverage for the event. The decision was made to memorialize the 20th anniversary of Stonewall. This Lansing march will eventually evolve into what is today Michigan Pride.

Meanwhile, DAGLC coordinator Frank Colasonti Jr. and his organization held a pride event in the University of Michigan Dearborn Campus' Gymnasium. The event was called PrideFest.

See **History**, page 26



1972 – Marchers in Detroit's first Gay pride parade.
Photo: Private collection of G.Kamm

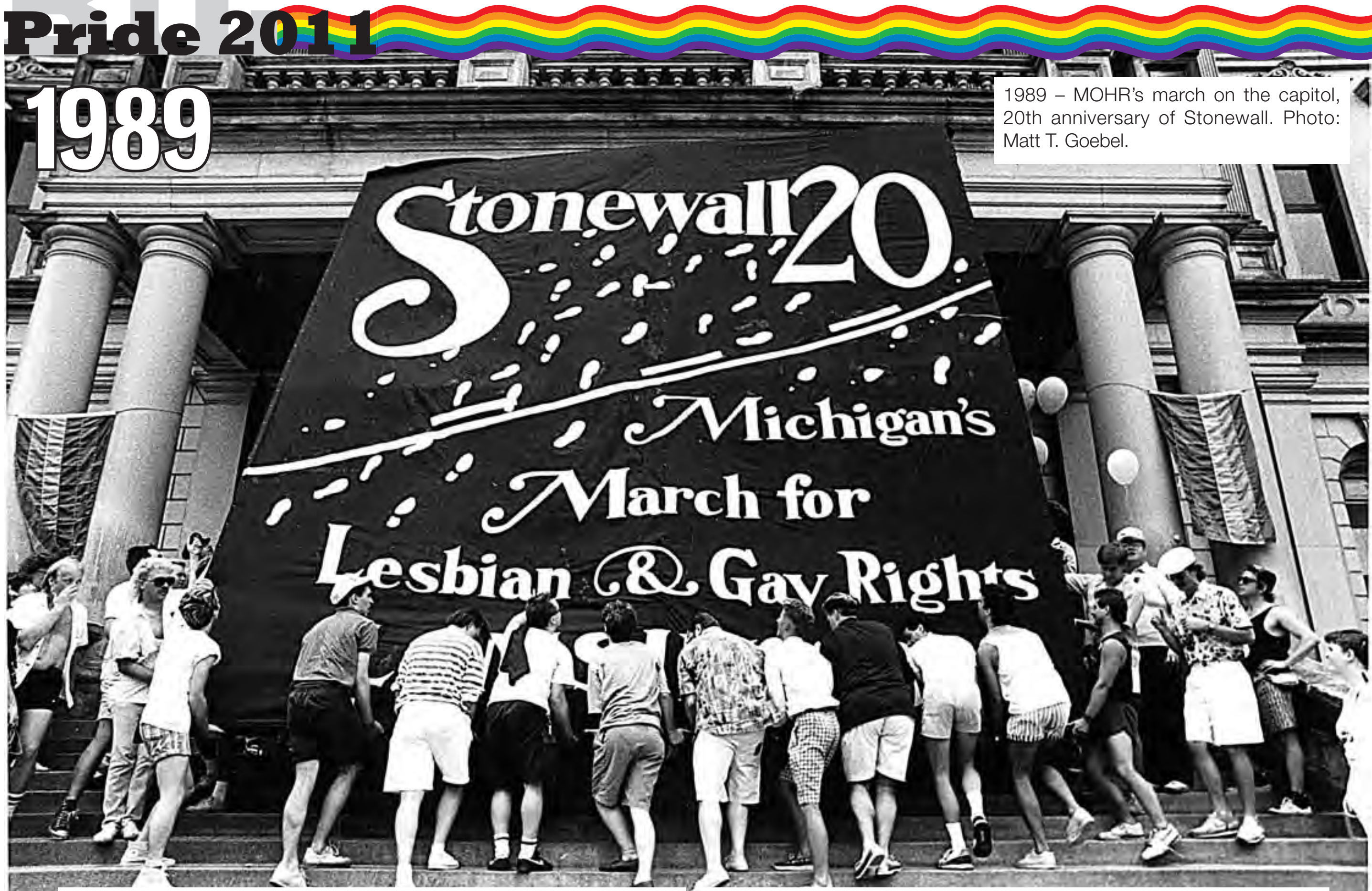


1986 – PFLAG Detroit, in the first of MOHR's statewide gay pride parades.

1986 – Craig Covey during MOHR's first "Forward Together," statewide gay pride parade.

LESBIAN CONNECTION
1988

1988 – Lesbian Connection in MOHR's final gay pride parade in Detroit.
Photo: Allan Glassman.

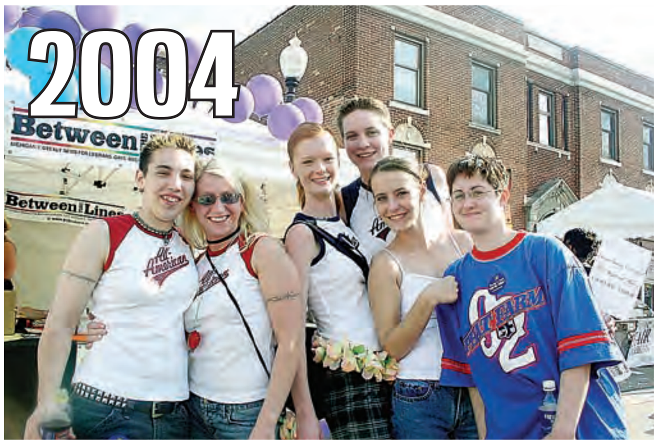

1989
Stonewall 20
Michigan's March for Lesbian & Gay Rights

1989 – MOHR's march on the capitol, 20th anniversary of Stonewall. Photo: Matt T. Goebel.

DOWNTOWN FERNDALE

2003

2003 – Michael Lary gets ready for Pride in Ferndale



2010 – First annual Southeast Michigan Dyke March took close to 200 marchers down Ferndale's Nine Mile Road and up to Geary Park, where a rally was held. BTL photos by Andrew Potter.

► History

Continued from p. 25

1991 – DAGLC moved the event into Oakland Community College of Royal Oak.

1992 – Michael C. Lary became PrideFest's coordinator.

1993 – Realizing DAGLC and the PrideFest Coordinators had different visions for the event, Lary and a number of others formed South East Michigan Pride, which focused on producing an annual pride festival.

1994 – The event was renamed PrideFest Celebration with the tagline "A Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Celebration."

1996 – PrideFest Celebration was moved to the northern campus. It was the first year the event was held outside.

2002 – With the assistance of Ferndale city manager Tom Barwin, SEMP moved the event to downtown Ferndale. Later that year, PrideFest Celebration became a project of the Triangle Foundation.

2003 – The event was renamed Motor City Pride.

2009 – Motor City Pride became organized by a group of volunteers known as the Motor City Pride Planning Committee.

2011 – Remaining a project of Triangle's new name, Equality Michigan, Motor City Pride moves to Hart Plaza, in the heart of downtown Detroit.

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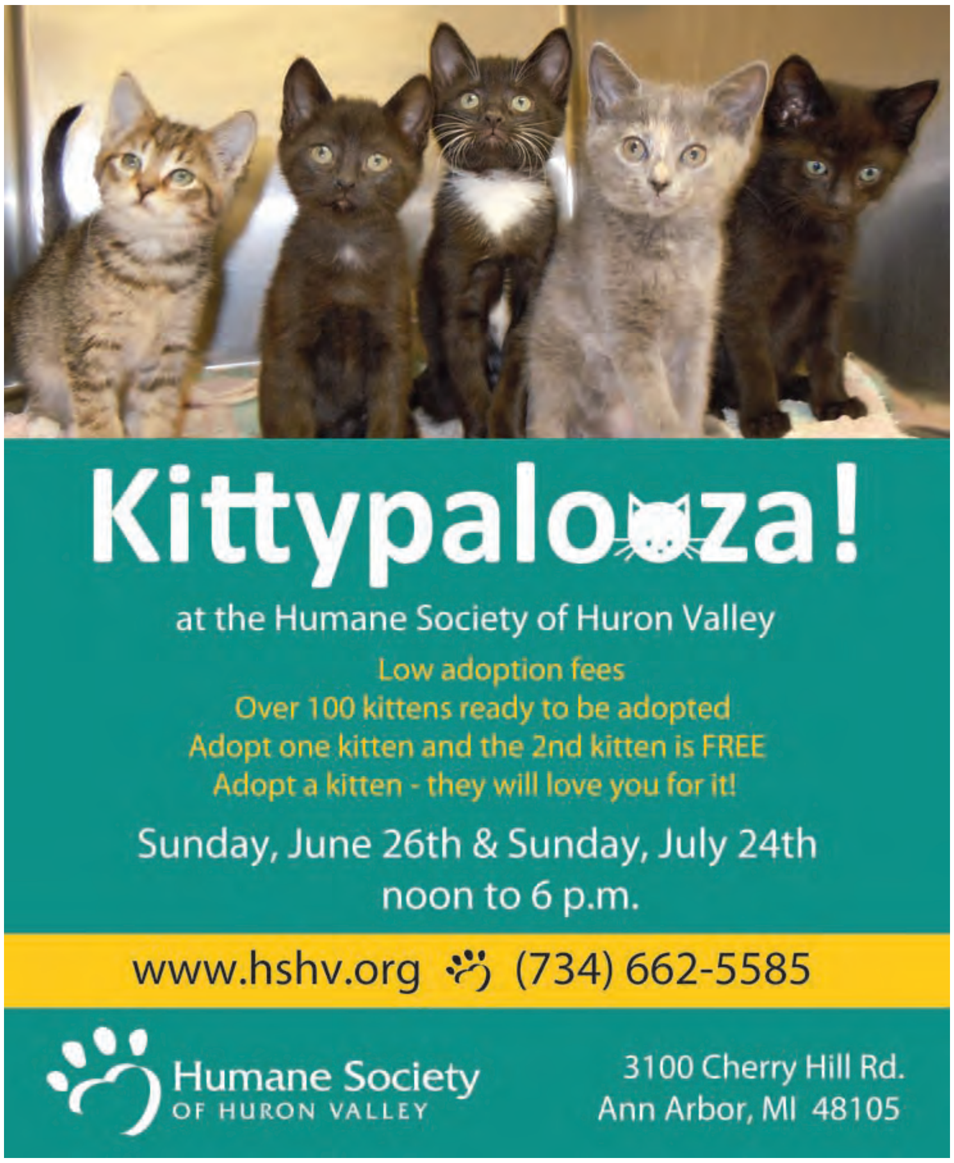

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► Between Ourselves

Continued from p. 14

If it's not safe for all students, you never know when it's not going to be safe for any of them.

–Bob Higgins, safe schools consultant for the Michigan Department of Education

When you're young nothing affects you. You think, "I'm not going to catch this," "I can go outside without a coat and not get cold." Education, education, education. Let them know it's out there. Don't hide it.

–Brian Malkowski, longtime volunteer, AIDS Partnership Michigan

There are young people demanding their rights because they think it shouldn't be any other way. When I was growing up it was quite different.

–William Sawyer-Todd, chair of the Lansing Human Rights Political Action Committee

LGBTQ students get overlooked in terms of programming and support. It's not as obvious they're in a minority. Often those students have a different set of issues they're dealing with. It's important to provide them with those resources so they can focus on their studies and be comfortable with who they are.

–Alli Sheppard, LGBTQ coordinator at U-M Dearborn

There are some problems in comparing support of LGBT rights to the civil rights movement, but there are some similarities. Then, it wasn't just black people or people of different races asking for equal rights, it was white people too. That's what made it successful – for everybody to want it.

–Jessica L. Best, intern at the U-M Spectrum Center

It is essential for organizations in the LGBT community to remember that our allies are an integral part of our "family." It is important that organizations such as PFLAG offer support, advocacy and education to our allies.

–Terri Dinsmore, president of the PFLAG chapter in Genesee County

I hope that whatever I'm doing, I'm involved with some kind of LGBT activism. I want to find innovative and effective ways to educate and influence people about LGBT rights with my writing.

–Lucy Hough, BTL intern

I have friends who are positive, some for over 20 years, and others more recently diagnosed. All of them mean a great deal to me and I want to do anything that I can so that anyone who is living with HIV/AIDS can have a better quality of life.

–Phil Williams, an active member of Higher Ground, which serves Michigan's HIV-positive community through support groups, health and healing classes, retreats and fundraising efforts

I don't look at the work I do with the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance as harder because of the conservative area I'm in, I look at it as more important to try and make the GLBT community visible in this area.

–Gale Crooks, founding member and current co-chair of the Lapeer County Equal Rights Alliance

The only cure I can think of for ignorance and intolerance is education.

–Benjamin Jenkins, president of U-M Dearborn's GSA and BTL Caledar Editor

Even among the most educated, misconceptions and misinformation about LGBT people are true dangers to professional practice.

–Daniel Cuschieri, intern at Affirmations

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–Gabe Javier, who works for the U-M Specturm center

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Creep of the Week

Gary Cass

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

By now you're probably familiar with the It Gets Better Project, but in case you're not, here's a little refresher. It Gets Better was started by Dan Savage after a spate of suicides following anti-gay bullying. Savage and his partner Terry made a video and put it up on YouTube, basically telling gay kids that even if things suck right now, things won't always suck.

They encouraged others to make videos and show gay kids who might be feeling isolated and alone that they aren't. There are more than 10,000 videos on the site now, including messages from Kathy Griffin, Sarah Silverman, Janet Jackson, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Vice President Biden, and President Obama. All of them have the same basic message: you're okay the way you are and don't kill yourself.

Most folks would see this as a positive thing. But not Gary Cass of the Christian Anti-Defamation Commission who saw an It Gets Better ad on TV. He's created his own video to counter attack It Gets Better. His message to gay kids? It gets worse, you're a sinner, you're disease ridden, and you make Jesus puke. But if you pray to Jesus really, really hard you might find the strength to "change."

> If someone of the same sex has got your pants on fire, Cass says it's your duty to point a fire extinguisher at your crotch.

Cass claims that the thousands of people who have contributed to the It Gets Better Project are all a bunch of liars who refuse to acknowledge the truth about homosexuality. "What people trapped in homosexuality really need is hope that they can find peace and escape the lifestyle," he writes. "It's up to us, who love those who live as homosexuals, to tell them the truth." See? If you're gay Cass loves you, just not the way you are.

He then trots out all of the usual anti-gay arguments and, in text accompanying the video, provides documentation by citing other anti-gay organizations like Exodus International and NARTH (the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality) as "proof."

Not surprisingly, the C-word comes up. "It is a lie that people are born homosexual and that the incidence of homosexuality is unaffected by influences from culture, family, peer socialization, and incremental choices," he writes. "It is a lie that homosexual conduct is not a choice. Although same-sex attraction may be involuntary, one's response to it is completely voluntary. All sex is voluntary except rape."

Um, okay. Thank you for that clarification. I think it's interesting that he acknowledges "same-sex attraction may be involuntary." It almost feels like a bit of a concession. But, of course, even if someone of the same sex has got your pants on fire, Cass says it's your duty to point a fire extinguisher at your crotch.

"All people have the obligation to resist temptations, no matter how strong, that lead to personal and social harms," he continues.

And what are those personal and social harms? Well, starting with the personal harms Cass claims will befall gay kids as they get older: you'll get AIDS, you'll get cancer, you'll become an alcoholic, you'll kill yourself. As for social harms, gays are basically out to subvert and destroy civilized heterosexual society and turn the whole country into a gay sex-crazed cesspool like Europe.

The answer? God. And going to an ex-gay therapist even though ex-gay therapy has been proven bunk by respectable psychological groups.

Homos are, according to Cass, "fighting with God." He writes, "All you have to do is turn from your sin and place your trust in him."

He then asks his readers to raise a fuss whenever an It Gets Better Project ad comes on TV. "Next time you see one of those deceitful TV ads call your local television station and ask them why they hate our children so much that they persist in promoting such a pernicious lie."

Hmm... Looks like Cass should really sort that one out himself first before pointing fingers.

---

by Rex Wockner

32 arrests at Moscow Pride, city flouts Euro Court ruling

Dan Choi, US activist, among those arrested

Undeterred by the April ruling from the European Court of Human Rights that banning Moscow Pride is illegal in multiple ways, the city banned the May 28 gay pride parade for the sixth year in a row. Activists responded by trying to rally near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and City Hall. They were violently arrested.

Among those taken into custody were U.S. activist Dan Choi, International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia President Louis-Georges Tin, Chicago activist Andy Thayer and 15 Russian LGBT activists, including, according to Choi, Anna Komarova, Tim Magomedov, Alexey Kiselev, Elizaveta Nikitina, Aleksandr Shiriaev and Andzey Zayziev. Fourteen anti-gay protesters also were arrested.

"I was arrested and put in a solitary confinement without any air, without any light," said Tin. "The policemen were calling me 'fucking faggot.' After four hours ... I was released. My concern now is about European institutions. The right to vote of Russia within the Council of Europe has to be suspended."

Choi live-tweeted his arrest from the moment he was placed into a police wagon until his release several hours later.

Once out of custody, he wrote: "Released. No charge, no fine. ... Few bruises on left leg, scratches and swelling right ear. Punched in the face 5 times. Still alive. Overall best pride march yet. (U.S. Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton still needs to say something about the Russian ban on this freedom of expression. We were absolutely non-violent. My twitter feed (twitter.com/ltdanchoi) has some pics from the jail, and other details from the event. Love is worth it."

Komarova said police pressured her to divulge information about the structure of Moscow Pride, according to British gay leader Peter Tatchell, who was in Moscow but was not detained.

The Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights, Thomas Hammarberg, denounced Moscow's refusal to abide by the Euro Court decision.

"I learnt that a LGBT Pride event planned for Saturday 28 May in Moscow has not been authorised by the authorities because of expected traffic obstructions and the impact of this event on the 'psychological health and moral damage of children and teenagers,'" Hammarberg wrote. "(T)he rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fundamental rights in a democratic society and they belong to all people. The European Court of Human Rights has ruled in two judgments against unlawful restrictions or bans running counter to the exercise of freedom of assembly by LGBT persons in the context of the organisation of Pride parades. Peaceful demonstrations cannot be banned simply because of hostile attitudes to the demonstrators or to the causes they advocate. The State also has a duty to protect the participants in peaceful demonstrations including when they hold unpopular views or belong to minorities."

IDAHO's Tin said the Council of Europe must react to Russia's flouting of European law and the Euro Court ruling.

"This situation is intolerable, and cannot last anymore," he said. "The Council of Europe, which was created to promote human rights, cannot include (in its membership) without any reaction a member state that denies human rights so clearly."

There is video of Choi and Thayer being arrested at tinyurl.com/danchoimoscow. Choi posted a video from inside the police wagon. See tinyurl.com/choiwagon.

In ruling against the Moscow government's violent homophobia, the European Court of Human Rights said that previous years' gay-pride bans by then-Mayor Yuri Luzhkov violated the European Convention on Human Rights in the areas of freedom of assembly and association, the right to an effective remedy and prohibition of discrimination.

Gays have marched or staged other public actions yearly since 2006 despite the bans. The gatherings were attacked by anti-gay hooligans, picketed by religious protesters and broken up by police.

Meanwhile, five days before this year's pride drama, about 60 LGBT and other people staged an Equality March on Gogolevsky Boulevard in central Moscow.

That march had been banned as well. Officials said it would provoke a negative reaction in society and could affect the psychological health of children and teens.

Other groups taking part in the Equality March included feminists, socialists, anarchists, leftists and liberals, a spokesman for the group said. There is video at tinyurl.com/mos-em-a.

LGBTs march in Turkey

LGBT people marched in Ankara, Turkey, May 22 at the conclusion of the 6th International Meeting Against Homophobia.

A group of Iranian LGBT refugees joined the procession, proclaiming: "Ahmadinejad! We exist! We are here!"

At a 2007 appearance in New York City, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was quoted by journalists as saying there are no gay people in Iran. His actual words were: "We in Iran don't have homo-play (hamjensbaz) like you have in your country. In our country ... absolutely such a thing does not exist as a phenomenon. I don't know who told you otherwise."

A group from Istanbul traveled to the march together in a "Rainbow Bus." Marchers also came from Diyarbakir, Adana, Eskisehir and Izmir.

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LGBT people marched in Ankara, Turkey, May 22 at the conclusion of the 6th International Meeting Against Homophobia. Photo by Gülistan Aydogdu/Kaos GL

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A kick-start to the heart

KICK provides education and community to African-American LGBTs

BY TARA CAVANAUGH AND RUCHI NARESH

"It's really tough reaching the African American gay community," says Curtis Lipscomb, the new executive director of KICK.

"We have a long history of people that beat us up within our own community. If you don't know anyone like us, you have these mischaracterizations about us. It's hard."

KICK, a Detroit nonprofit for African American LGBTs, is dedicated to combating those stereotypes while providing safety, education and a place for community. Its efforts have not gone unnoticed: Recently, it attracted its largest grant ever, acquired a new space, and hired Lipscomb as its first executive director – all proving that the organization has made great strides in the community, and it's set to make even more.

Hands-on help

So what gives KICK its kick? A wide variety of services, for starters.

KICK's services fall under three programs: Receive & Restore provides health and wellness information, Learn & Live provides education workshops and Help & Heal provides faith-based support and resources for men who are HIV-positive or who have AIDS.

Every evening between 5 and 8 p.m. the office has daily programs, such as book clubs. It also provides gathering space for other organizations – usually small groups with limited budgets.

While KICK provides space for hands-on-education and grassroots efforts, it is also working beyond its programs on bigger issues, such as bullying.

A new project, called Detroit's Safe School initiative, has attracted the help of Detroit City Council President Charles Pugh, who is also a member of KICK.

"The fact the we as responsible adults who are gay and know that (bullying of gay students) is going on and doing nothing about it – we are enabling that to happen by our inaction," Pugh says.

The Safe School initiative would provide sensitivity training to public school administrators, teachers, counselors and other staff members so they could help students struggling with gender identity and sexual orientation.

Students need to know that "it is okay if they don't fit the norm," says Tiffany McLean, the board president at KICK, "and if something bad does happen to those students, then Detroit Public School stands behind them and makes sure they have a safe learning environment."

Pugh, along with other organizations that are supporting the initiative, have presented the Detroit School Board with an outline of the curriculum. According to Pugh, this process is long and can be discouraging, but Lipscomb remains undaunted.

Another big issue that KICK is unafraid to tackle is LGBT acceptance in black churches. It partnered with other area nonprofits to sponsor a spirituality summit in April.

Curtis Lipscomb, the new executive director of KICK, shows off KICK's new space in Detroit's Tech Town. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

And just as KICK uses other organizations' resources to help its community, it also helps the greater LGBT community statewide. It has collaborated with Equality Michigan, the ACLU of Michigan and Affirmations in planning a series of town hall meetings throughout the state about including LGBTs in the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, which protects many minorities against discriminatory practices in housing and employment – but not yet LGBTs.

"KICK does tremendous work in the African-American community," says Michael Gregor, the director of communications for Equality Michigan. "As we expand our advocacy efforts statewide, we need voices from all communities to build the movement for equality and fairness."

A financial kick-start

An organization with such a wide reach and big goals needs money. KICK survives off of corporate sponsorships, grants and donations from its 200-plus members. And this year, KICK got a big boost.

The Arcus Foundation gave the organization a $180,000 two-year grant, which is the largest total grant it has received to date. The money was used to hire the first ED, move into a modern new office space in Detroit's Tech Town and expand programming.

When KICK was preparing for its move into the new space in February, Lipscomb told BTL that the grant opens up all kinds of opportunities.

"This will allow us to work with more established LGBT nonprofits – locally and nationally," Lipscomb said, "and to do more social justice work." Just last month, for example, Lipscomb spoke at a national NAACP conference in Detroit, and is working on creating connections between the black LGBT community and powerful organizations like the NAACP. Creating connections and sharing resources can only help their community, he says.

> "We have a long history of people that beat us up within our own community. If you don't know anyone like us, you have these mischaracterizations about us."
>
> –Curtis Lipscomb,
> executive director of KICK

Creating a brighter future

"When you think of Michigan, you always think of Detroit," Lipscomb says. "While Detroit is politically Democratic, the state is predominantly not. When it comes to education in the African American community, they need to know that they are a part of that solution."

But, Lipscomb says, most members of black gay society feel invisible – and they aren't aware of what the solution could be.

Many in the community don't know what it is to be married, to have equal rights, to be able to adopt, he says. Many also attend churches that don't recognize such injustices.

So KICK is there to educate all involved – LGBT or not – about those problems and how to fix them.

"I think one of the things that makes KICK so wonderful and so dynamic, is that we are all about building relationships," McLean says. "Through those relationships the dialogue can take place."

Learn more about KICK at www.e-kick.org or by calling 313-285-9733.

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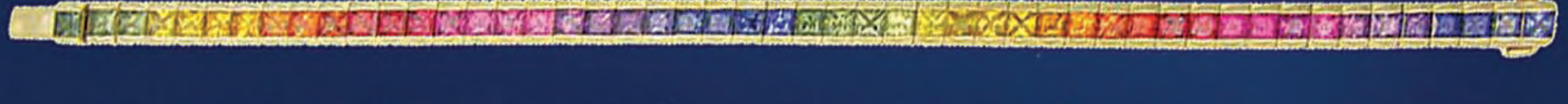

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Giving voice to the voiceless

Laura Hughes helps homeless LGBT youth find more than shelter

BY ANDREA POTEET

"Rochelle goes into a center because she's biologically a boy, and the center staff calls her 'It.' They say, 'We can't do anything with 'It,' can you do something with 'It?'"

This is just an example of what Laura Hughes encounters during a typical workday.

When she talks about the injustices she sees in the child welfare system for LGBT youth, her calm exterior begins to subtly crack. Her brown eyes widen and her dangly earrings bounce off her neck with every incredulous syllable.

For 30-year-old Hughes, who is the executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center, it's these stories that help drive her to fight for LGBT youth in and outside of the center, which provides residential and drop-in support services for more than 2,000 homeless, runaway and at-risk LGBT teens and young adults each year.

Hughes has always been an advocate. Fueled by her desire to serve overlooked populations, the Chattanooga, Tenn. native earned a bachelor's degree in sociocultural anthropology at Brown University in 2002, and went on to earn a master's degree in public heath at the University of Michigan in 2004.

She took on her current position at the Highland Park-based center in October 2009, after being introduced to it while she was working as the HIV and STD manager at the Wayne County Department of Public Health. While leading a chlamydia and gonorrhea screening project at the center, she struck up friendships with some of the residents.

"The conversations I had with young people weren't necessarily about chlamydia or gonorrhea or HIV, but were just about life," Hughes says. "They were curious. And I feel like that's the kind of curiosity that spurs growth."

As she was befriending center residents, Hughes says she was also becoming frustrated with her work at the county and the lack of a comprehensive approach to HIV prevention. Coming to the Ruth Ellis Center, one of only three centers for homeless LGBT youth in the country, allowed her to address all aspects of quality of life for an underserved population of youth.

She has helped to build a pipeline of LGBT professionals within the child welfare and runaway and homeless systems, so that LGBT youth are no longer underrepresented. Hughes has also encouraged youth to become stronger voices for themselves. Under her leadership, the center began a youth-driven advocacy program called Out and Up Front last October. The program provides a forum for youth to lobby for changes in bullying policies, the child welfare system and other areas that affect them.

> Some estimates say up to 40 percent of all homeless youth are LGBT

Laura Hughes is the executive director of the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park. The center is one of three shelters for homeless and runaway LGBT youth in the country. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

"It was really about a forum for youth voices," Hughes says. "So it's about the bullying, but it's also about their voices having a say in something that impacts them in their lives … We've let youth open that door in an intentional way so that other folks can come in and build off the work that they're doing."

Seeing the dedication of youth in that program has been one of the most rewarding parts of her time at the center.

"The young people who work on the bullying work, many of them have already dropped out and they're not going back," Hughes says, "but they are doing work for the other young people who come that they will never know.

"These are young people who are couch surfing, who are sleeping in Palmer Park, who have not completed high school, but none of that matters. Their commitment to the work is higher than all of that, and that's pretty rare."

Though she loves her job, it has not been without challenges. A month after she arrived, she was part of the decision to reduce the number of days the drop-in center was open from five to three, a move she called "heartbreaking."

"It was the decision we had to make to be able to leverage forward," Hughes says. "This is a financially stable and growing organization, and we wouldn't be able to say both of those things with confidence, and know that we are a worthy investment for our community, if we hadn't made some of those hard decisions."

Her time at the center has taught her lessons about listening, teamwork and being a better ally for the LGBT community. But the biggest lessons she's learned have come from seeing firsthand the resilience of some of the center's youth. She's met young people who have been disowned by their families because of their orientation and watched them jump from home to home and school to school – and still go on to work towards their dreams.

> "We want every young person to go with a family, to have a backyard and a white picket fence. You shouldn't have to come to Ruth Ellis to get that, but until we can ensure that, we will be here."
>
> –Laura Hughes, executive director,
> Ruth Ellis Center

"When your back is up against the wall, people keep moving and they respond," Hughes says. "I think that's a universal lesson that we learn from an unlikely population sometimes."

Seeing those success stories firsthand is her favorite part of the job. One of her proudest moments at the center was when a young girl burst into a meeting between Hughes and a potential donor to announce that she received an A in her algebra class.

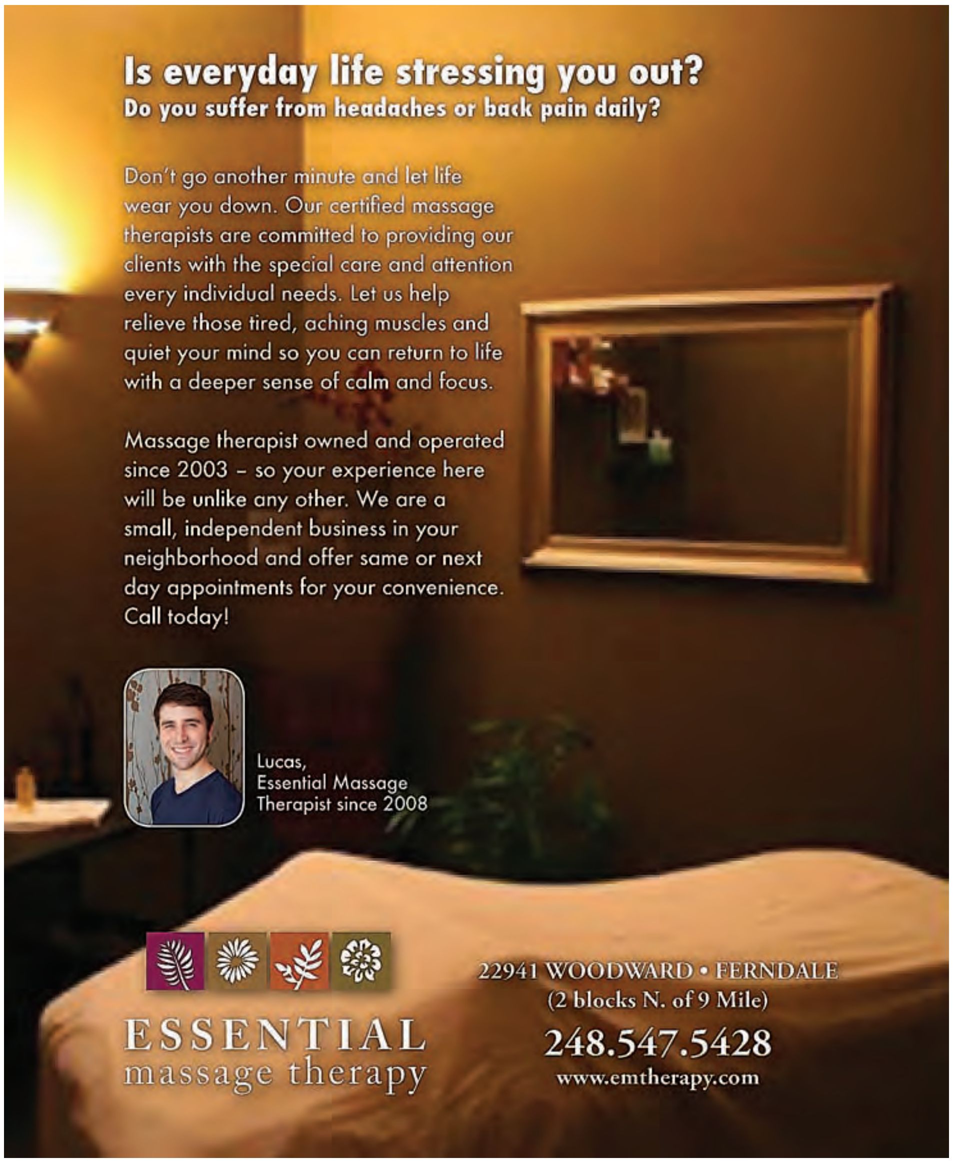
"She was just exuberant," Hughes says. "I was so proud of her. Those are the kinds of moments I get all the time. Young people drop by to tell me what's going on and the strides they've made. That provides me immense amounts of drive and joy."

On the other hand, "Young people drop by and tell me exactly what they need and I know that systems have failed them," Hughes says. "That's what drives me to figure out what else we have to do."

Next, Hughes hopes to the make the Ruth Ellis Center a replicable model – so that more centers are able to provide the specialized care it gives runaway and homeless LGBT youth.

"We want every young person to go with a family, to have a backyard and a white picket fence," she says. "You shouldn't have to come to Ruth Ellis to get that, but until we can ensure that, we will be here."

For more information, go to www.ruthelliscenter.org



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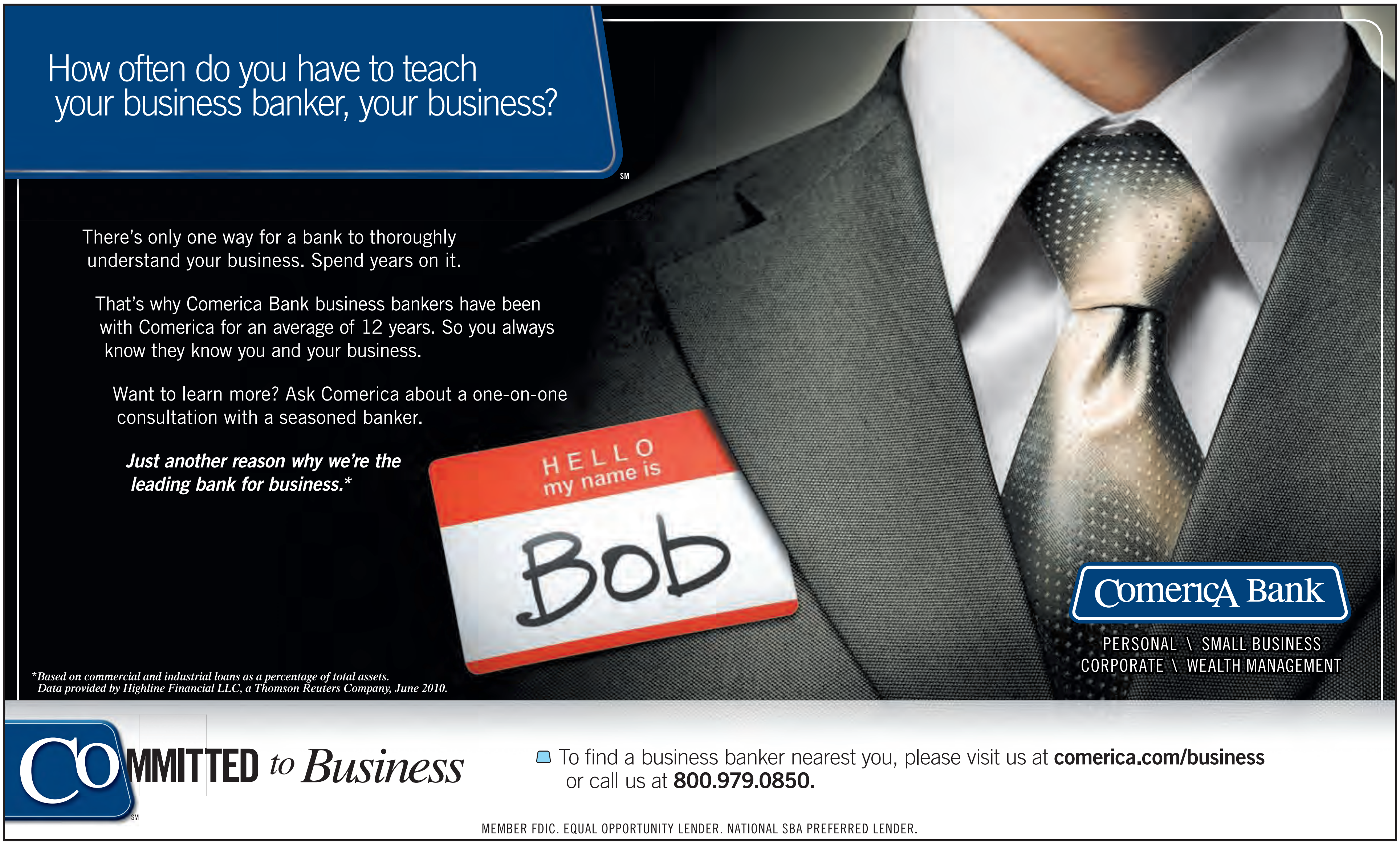

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Family matters

PFLAG-Detroit celebrates 25 years of keeping families together

BY TARA CAVANAUGH

There's something special about a PFLAG hug.

For starters, it probably comes from a perfect stranger. And it's not one of those stilted butt-out hugs, or quick, arm-only side hugs – it's a full-on embrace.

It's a hug that comes from people who know what you're going through and care about you, no matter who you are.

PFLAG stands for Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays, and it's a support group with more than 250 chapters in 50 states. Its Detroit chapter is celebrating 25 years of educating, providing community, sharing resources and creating connections.

Or, as the hundreds of members over those 25 years would say: Keeping families together.

{HEADER The greenhouse effect}

When Tony DeOrio, the current co-president of PFLAG Detroit, listened to his then-15-year-old son come out 7 years ago, he was terrified.

"About people bullying him, calling him names, getting in his face," DeOrio says, wincing with the pain of parental concern. "As a dad, you don't want any violence. Certainly Scott can stand up for himself, he's one of those kids. But you don't want him to have to deal with that."

DeOrio was also worried about his wife and Scott's siblings: How would they take it? And what about the extended family?

When DeOrio and his wife went to their first PFLAG meeting, they realized it was OK to have these kinds of worries and doubts. The other people in the support group welcomed them with open arms – literally.

"It's an honest place," DeOrio says. "Where if you felt like you've failed as a parent, or you had some prejudices or homophobias, you can talk about those, still feel love and acceptance, and begin to reorganize that in your heart.

"They weren't pushy," DeOrio says, remembering his first visit. "They didn't say you should believe this or that, or you have to think this way or that way."

DeOrio, a former pastor who now works as a psychologist, says he began exploring how the church views homosexuality before his son came out. "A lot of time religion has been a big part of people's non-acceptance," he says. The PFLAG support groups helped him further re-examine and reframe his beliefs.

So how does PFLAG help those who are struggling to balance their faith with their love for the LGBTs in their lives?

"There's no formula," DeOrio says. "I think one of the ways it happens is by other parents telling other people their story about how they have reframed some of their religious beliefs, how they've worked with that.

"But I think that exchange happens because PFLAG creates like a greenhouse effect. Where you can come, and it's under the right conditions and temperatures, where you can just be yourself and maybe grow into something else," he says.

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DETROIT
PARENTS FAMILIES FRIENDS
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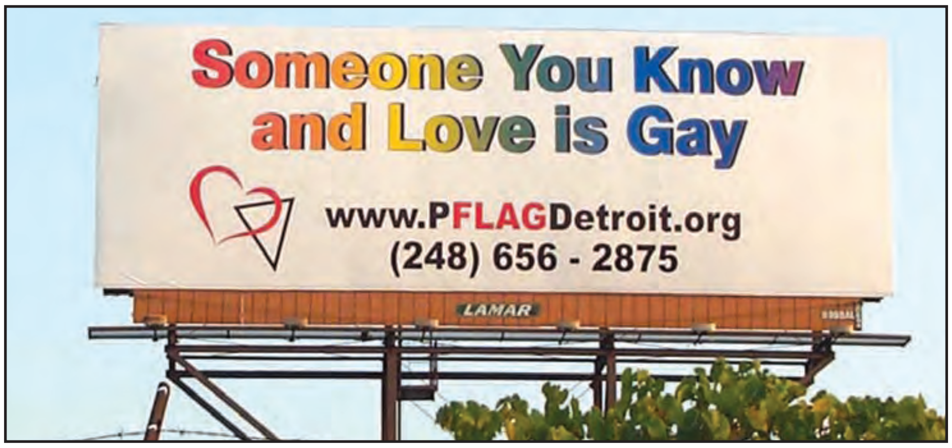

During the last 25 years, PFLAG-Detroit has clearly marked its support by attending pride marches across the state and even by posting a billboard on I-75. The billboard was paid for by donations; when PFLAG members Jerry Langdon and Arnold Edmunds held a commitment ceremony, they asked for donations instead of gifts, raising $8,000 to pay for the billboard. Photos supplied by Mike Hazlett, 12-year PFLAG member who creates the monthly newsletter that is sent out to 300 members.

We are family

PFLAG also helped Jerry Langdon strengthen ties with his family – and find an entirely new one too.

Two decades ago, Langdon was living with his partner Arnold Edmunds and their three children when Edmunds' mother came for an extended visit. One weekday morning, as Langdon was packing lunches and hollering at the children to hurry up, he noticed Edmunds' mother had a "glazed look on her face."

After the hubbub died down, he asked her what was wrong.

"'You guys are like a normal family,'" Langdon remembers her saying – as if it was a bad thing. He knew what she meant: She never thought gay men would also be family men.

After that, Langdon looked around for a support group and found PFLAG Detroit. He, Edmunds and Edmunds' mother went together for their first visit.

"It helped all of us," Langdon gushes 20 years after that first meeting. "Arnold and I didn't hide our sexual orientation, but we were closeted more or less. And we didn't know too many people who had kids, other than straight couples. Our families were OK with it, but we didn't talk about it. We were just there."

PFLAG gave them a place to connect with others and to fully be themselves. And as for his partner's mother? She only attended a few meetings, but then "there was no anti-gay thing going on anymore," Langdon says. "PFLAG changed her and PFLAG really, really changed us."

As Langdon and his partner went from newbies to board members over two decades, they've seen a lot of changes in PFLAG.

One of the biggest changes is in the first-time parents. "The wonderful part is we're not getting them so traumatized anymore," he says. "Once in a great while, we get a parent who comes in really, really, really upset. But most of them come in and say, 'I'm fine with my kid being gay. How can I help them?' It has changed from boxes and boxes of Kleenex 20 years ago to 'How can I help my gay son?'"

Reaching out

Another change Langdon has seen is PFLAG's increase in advocacy. He's particularly fond of the public library project, in which PFLAG bought books and donated them to public libraries throughout the state.

"We did that because a mother couldn't find a book about what a gay person was. The only thing she could find was a book which just defined homosexuality, and that was it," Langdon says.

PFLAG donated books that explained homosexuality in a positive way, such as "Heather Has Two Mommies" by Lesléa Newman and "Say Hi to Joyce" by Joyce Murdoch. Langdon also checked to make sure that the books were still there five years later – so that no one had stolen them. They were all there, all 380 donated books.

DeOrio says PFLAG Detroit sends panelists and speakers into college classrooms, high school health classes and churches.

"We'll be there as a panel and the students in the class could ask any question they want. We certainly try to tell people to support human dignity, human rights, embrace diversity, be respectful," DeOrio says.

PFLAG Detroit has also partnered with Highland Park's Ruth Ellis Center, one of three shelters for homeless LGBT youth in the country. Some PFLAG parents even mentor children from the shelter.

DeOrio says what might be his favorite form of outreach is perhaps the most passive one: "I really like our website, pflagdetroit.org. People go to that website and get a lot of information, and they can still remain anonymous." The site provides links to friendly places of worship, resources for transgender individuals, supportive allies and resources for youth.

That PFLAG hug

The website is also full of testimonials from PFLAG members: Parents of a transgender child who had given up hope, a young transgender woman who appreciates the support, a straight ally who wanted to connect and show his care.

A running theme in the testimonials is the enormous relief at finding a room full of people who will offer a listening ear and a big, warm hug.

"I think PFLAG is a place of healing," DeOrio says. "It's really kept families together."

PFLAG Detroit meets on the second Sunday of every month at The Lutheran Church of The Master, 3333 Coolidge Highway in Troy, Mich. For more information, check out www.pflagdetroit.org. To find other PFLAG chapters, go to www.pflag.org. You can also meet PFLAG members in person at Motor City Pride in Hart Plaza on June 4-5; they'll be giving out information and their famous hugs.

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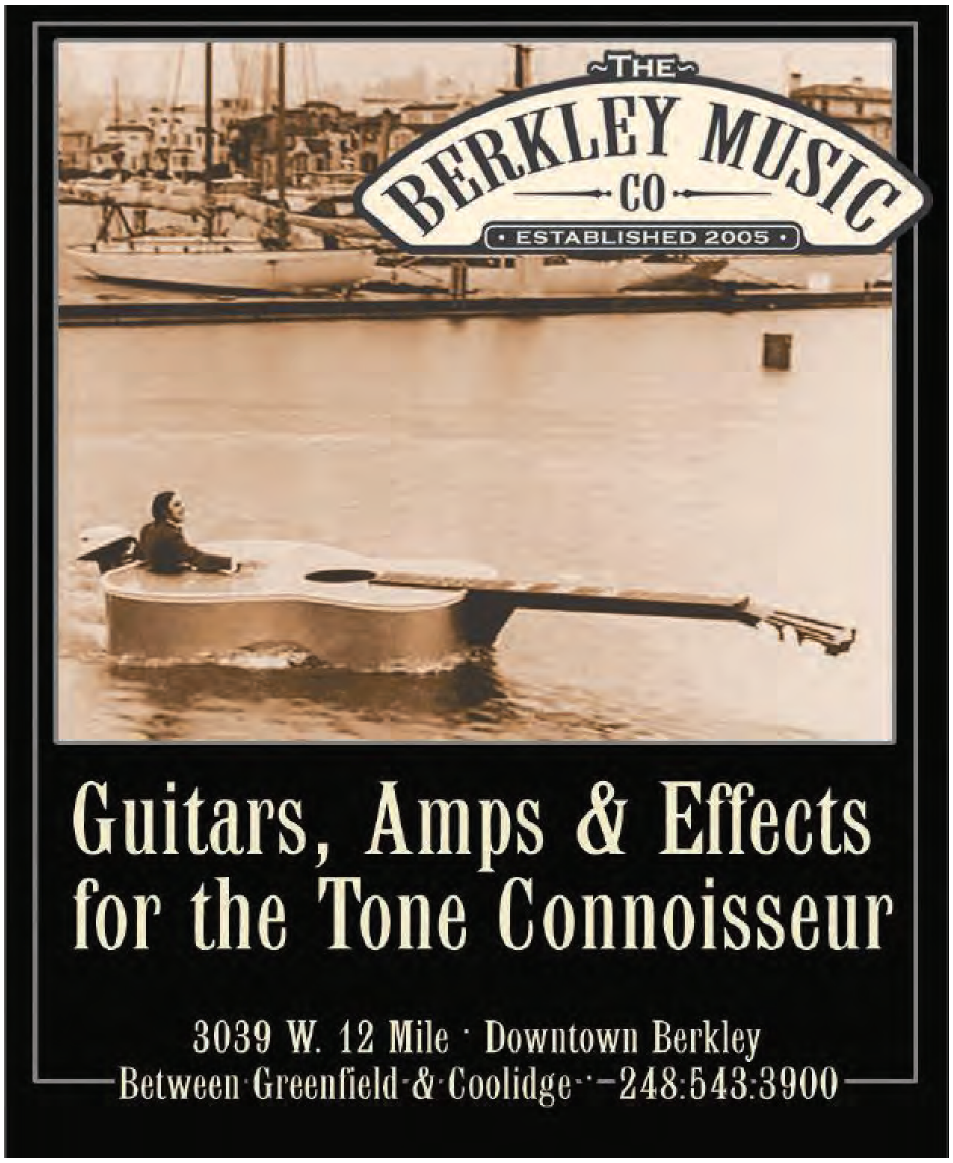

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Charles Alexander: Always an artist

The Detroiter was out and proud before it was cool

BY ALEXA STANARD

When artist, writer and Detroit native Charles Alexander came out, Dwight Eisenhower was president and gay bars could expect routine raids from local vice cops.

Alexander, born in 1936, has lived his entire life in Metro Detroit, witnessing the LGBT community's evolution from the vibrant yet secretive bar scene of the late fifties to the modern-day fight for marriage equality. That evolution was intertwined with his own through recovery from alcohol addiction, exploration of his spirituality and development as a painter and writer.

"When I came out, which was right out of high school, the gay scene in downtown Detroit was within walking distance of City Hall and the first precinct," he says. "There were four bars and gathering places for teens. For teenagers it was really very good – you got an introduction to the ropes, what to do, what not to do."

Alexander studied art and music while enrolled at Cass Technical high school, where, he says, "because of the nature of art and the nature of music, we were allowed a certain amount of latitude. We could be a bit flamboyant. You quickly learned who was gay."

By 1959 Alexander was hanging out at The Woodward, the city's oldest gay bar, where patrons wore suit coats and ties. Vice cops would sometimes enter the bar and "if you looked at them the wrong way you could be arrested, and it was your word against theirs.

"Back then people really knew nothing about homosexuality," Alexander continues. "There was a requisite anonymity. You had a nickname, you didn't give any information about where you worked. It was a very, very guarded existence. You knew if you didn't do anything untoward or that was an affront to straight society you could get by.

"It took a certain amount of courage to be gay because all of society looked down on gay subculture, certainly religion, police and psychology" he adds. "It took courage to be who you were. For the most part you could do so (but) what you didn't do was you didn't out anybody."

His early interest in art served him well in 1950s and 60s Detroit, when the city was culturally on the map and Alexander took jobs in public relations for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and in publications for Detroit Public Schools.

By the 1970s Alexander's alcohol use, which began when he was 15, was taking its toll. In 1981 he entered treatment at Cottage Hospital; he's remained sober for 30 years.

"When I was drinking, in that period I never created any art, none at all," he says. "It's as though the output I have now was bottled up."

After he got sober, Alexander enrolled in a master's program at Wayne State University and returned to creative self-expression. He also began attending the Metropolitan Community Church.

"What was very, very helpful for me in my recovery was attending MCC and meeting some very supportive people there, persons who didn't drink or use and who provided me with friendships that are really helpful and meaningful," he says. "The real spirituality there is the community."

Charles Alexander, a longtime Detroiter and contributor to BTL, now enjoys life as a writer and artist. He recently celebrated his 75th birthday. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

That community became even more important as AIDS took hold in metro Detroit. In 1982, Alexander's good friend Dan died from what was then known as GRID – gay-related immune deficiency.

"I remember him telling me he was in the hospital for some sort of skin condition that wasn't resolving itself," Alexander says. "He died shortly thereafter."

In 1985, Alexander was motivated to become politically active. He joined the Detroit Area Gay/Lesbian Council as MCC's representative. When Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz took over publication of Between The Lines, Alexander attended the newspaper's first planning session. He has since written 570 columns for BTL.

Alexander's artistic output has been equally prolific. His colorful, highly detailed pieces have earned him shows at the Scarab Club and an invitation to join the Florence Biennale, and have raised about $60,000 in various charitable auctions benefitting LGBT causes.

"(Making art) is almost a compulsion, so much so I should be getting things done in terms of tidying up and housecleaning but I get distracted," Alexander says with a laugh. He cites Gustav Klimt and Francis Bacon as influences; locally, he admires John Strand and Jack O. Summers.

> "Back then people really knew nothing about homosexuality. There was a requisite anonymity. You had a nickname, you didn't give any information about where you worked. It was a very, very guarded existence. You knew if you didn't do anything untoward or that was an affront to straight society you could get by."
>
> –Charles Alexander

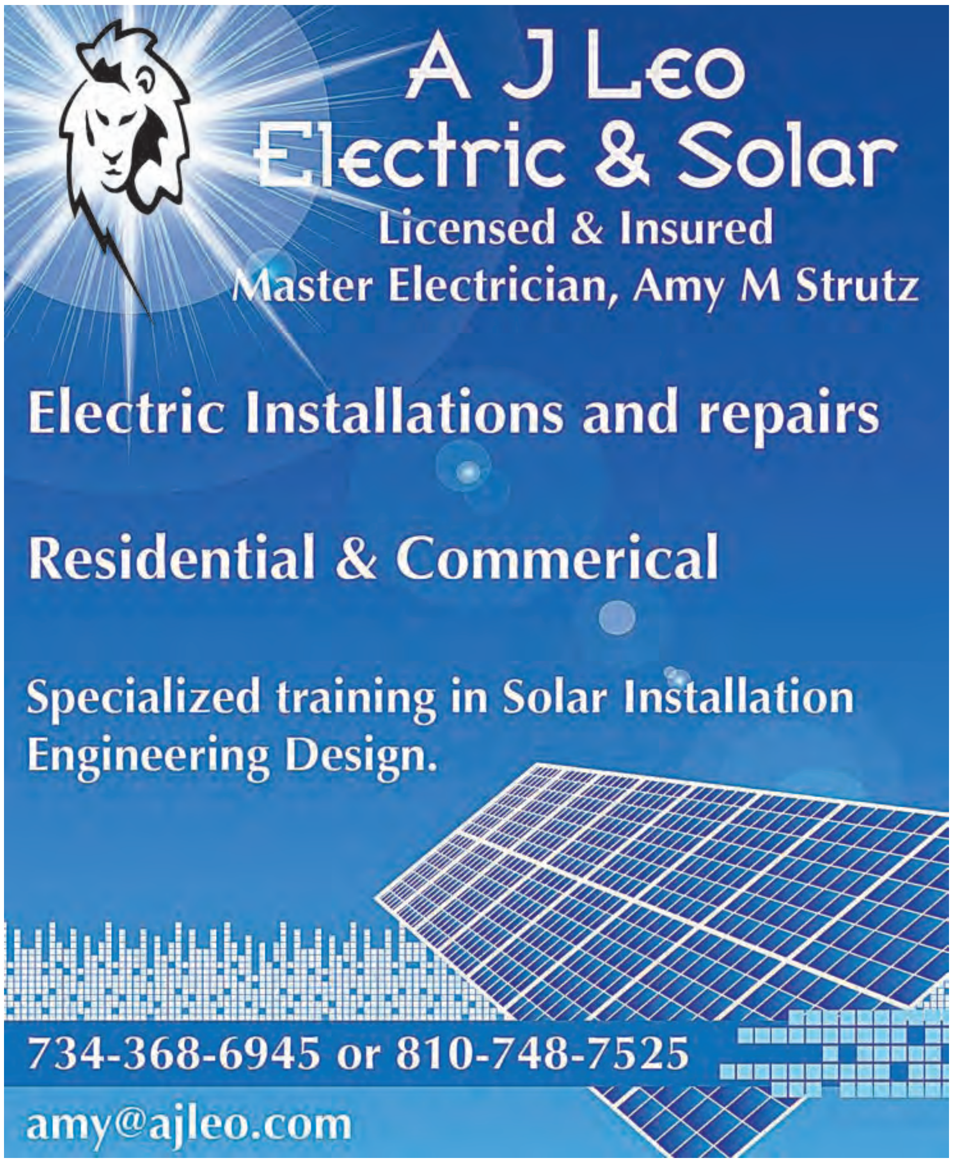
"When I create art I just start. I have no idea where anything is going to go," he says. "I just proceed and keep at it and the piece is done. It's almost looking at the work and a space says 'orange.' Or another space says, 'quick line.' There's a certain challenge, a daringness to making art, particularly when a piece is near completion and it requires a fast stroke and if you execute that stroke incorrectly it spoils it."

Now in his mid-70s, Alexander notes significant changes in life as a gay man in Detroit. The old bars of his youth are now empty lots, and the area's epicenter of LGBT life has shifted to Ferndale and Royal Oak. Many prominent people have come out, something Alexander says he couldn't have imagined in his youth. Being openly gay doesn't necessarily pose a threat to one's job.

Yet Alexander says it would be a mistake to assume that further progress is inevitable.

"I would hope that our young LGBT persons are not lulled into a false sense that everything is getting better and better, because that can change quickly depending on who gets in power," he says. "The young can't be complacent."

View Alexander's artwork online at Facebook. Search 'Charles Alexander'



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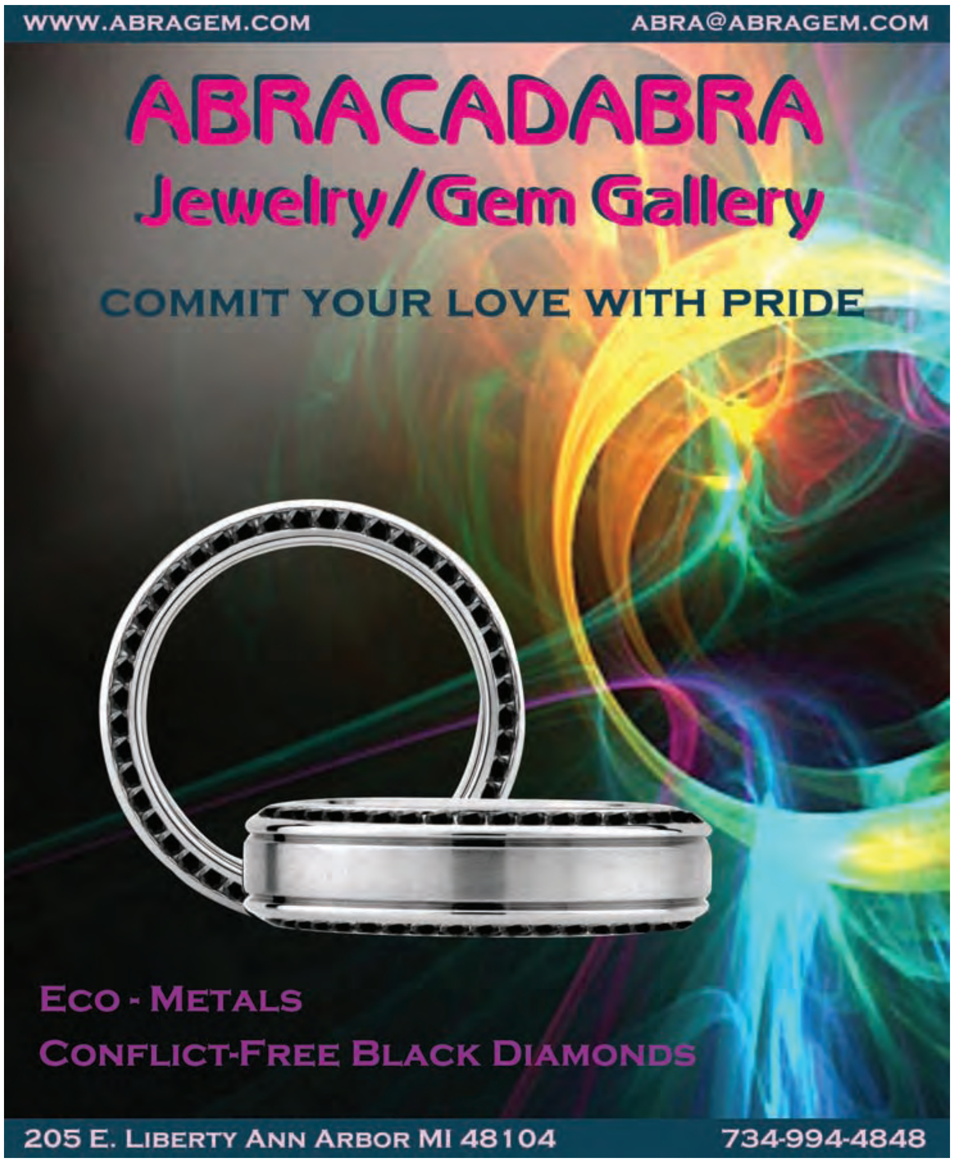

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Jay Kaplan's 10-year journey fighting for LGBT rights

The quest for equality requires more than courtroom battles

BY TARA CAVANAUGH AND RUCHI NARESH

The American Civil Liberties Union has long been an advocate for LGBT equality. Michigan's ACLU chapter has a special tool in its belt for fighting for LGBT rights: the LGBT Project.

Since 2001, the project has defended gay men from police entrapment and unfair imprisonment, fought for same-sex couples' rights to benefits, lobbied for LGBT protections at the state capitol and plenty more.

The project is driven almost entirely by Jay Kaplan. He's won a few important battles, but there's still a war against LGBTs in our state – a war which Kaplan has learned a variety of ways to fight.

Taking the sting out of sting operations

Police raids, gay targeting and unfair imprisonment aren't just the black-and-white snapshots of LGBT history in the last century. Those problems are alive in this century, too.

In a 2001 Rouge River sting operation, undercover Detroit police officers posed as gay men, hoping to arrest and charge people for violating an "annoying person's ordinance." Roughly 1,000 men were arrested. Many had their vehicles impounded and were slapped with a $1,000 fine.

When Kaplan joined the project in 2001, this became his first case.

In attempt to appear gay, young cops in short shorts smiled and waved at park visitors, Kaplan explains. "They were trying to get people to do things that could be considered annoying so they could arrest them," Kaplan says.

"(The ordinance) would prohibit things that are protected speech under the constitution. It's not illegal to wave at somebody; it's not illegal to smile. Can you imagine people getting arrested for things like that? It's ridiculous."

Kaplan sued on the behalf of seven plaintiffs in federal court, challenging the constitutionality of the ordinance. It wasn't easy to find arrestees who were willing to come forward, but the Triangle Foundation (now Equality Michigan) helped find people.

What was the outcome of the suit? For starters, the seven plaintiffs settled out of court for a large cash sum. And the annoying person's ordinance "is off the books," Kaplan says.

More than a legal war

Sometimes legal battles aren't best fought in courtroom arguments. They also need to be fought with education.

Kaplan took this softer approach when he worked with the Michigan Department of Corrections to stop marking gay inmates as "active homosexuals" on all of their records. Inmates who entered the system after 2006 no longer have such a marker.

Jay Kaplan with Kerry Moss, the director of the ACLU of Michigan, in the Detroit office. Moss created the chapter's LGBT Project in 2001, and there are only three LGBT Projects at ACLU chapters across the country. Kaplan, an attorney, has led the project for ten years. BTL photo: Andrew Potter.

How did Kaplan do it?

"Letters. Talking. Explaining that there's no reason for this, and the significance here," Kaplan says. He worked with administrators in the department, helping them understand that labeling an inmate as homosexual only exacerbates the homophobia that often exists in correctional facilities.

"We're limited on what we can litigate in our state," Kaplan says. "We have an incredibly conservative appellate court system in Michigan, which in the past has issued a number of decisions very damaging to the cause of LGBT civil rights and hostile towards civil rights in general. You don't want to file something that's just going to create worse law. So a lot of times what you do need to do is education. Hopefully some persuasion."

So sometimes you have to get people on your side, not just fight them on issues?

"Exactly," Kaplan says. "Sometimes you just can't win with our courts. Especially for the last decade. It was very, very difficult. Just a dead end. You had some very ideologically-driven justices on the court who had some very strong opinions on some of these issues."

Win some, lose some

Kaplan encountered some of those very strong opinions a few years ago.

In 2008, Kaplan was fighting a battle that began in 2004, when Michigan citizens approved Proposal 2, which added an amendment to the state constitution that prohibits same-sex marriage and civil unions.

"Once it became part of the constitution, some started saying cities couldn't offer domestic partner health insurance benefits," Kaplan says. "And then the attorney general, Mike Cox, issued an opinion saying he thought Kalamazoo offering domestic partner health benefits was unconstitutional." The ACLU filed a lawsuit, requesting a declaratory judgment and arguing that the benefit is merely an employee benefit – not a benefit that's only legally deserved by married couples.

Despite an early success at the trial court level, the case made its way up to the Michigan Supreme Court, which ruled against the ACLU. It said that the amendment means no public institution can offer any form of same-sex relationship recognition, including offering health benefits.

Since then, Kaplan has helped public institutions, such as universities, change their eligibility requirements to offer a "plus-one" option in their benefits packages. This means that an employee can allow another person of his or her choosing to share a health plan.

What you don't know…

Kaplan also spends a lot of time fighting for rights that many LGBTs don't even know they don't have.

For all that he's fought for, Kaplan's pet project is Michigan's restrictions against same-sex couples adopting children.

Kaplan has a warm, friendly, even teacherly voice. But when he starts talking about adoption, his tone begins to stretch in outrage.

"We have one of the broadest restrictions in the country," he says – broad restrictions that aren't even officially on the books.

The culprit? Proposal 2, again, which bans same-sex marriage. Judges who grant adoptions have also interpreted it to mean that same-sex couples can't adopt children together.

This means only one parent signs the adoption papers, and "your children don't have the legal protection of two parents," Kaplan says. It also means "children might not be able to access the health insurance of (the non-legally recognized) parent."

This unofficial, but widely practiced restriction on same-sex parent adoption also makes for messy custody battles if the couple breaks up, Kaplan says. The "unofficial" parent loses all rights to see the children he or she raised.

Overall, Kaplan says, "it undermines the stability of families."

Making a map

"When you look at the polling that has been done, most Michiganders favor civil rights protections for LGBT people, they believe there should be forms of relationship recognition," Kaplan says. "But when we look at our policies, when we look at our practices, we're out of sync."

Not only are LGBTs not allowed marriage or adoption in Michigan, but they're also not protected from discrimination in housing or employment – even though nearly every other minority class imaginable is.

This means that Kaplan and his team have plenty of work to do.

"I think we owe a duty, and by we I mean LGBT organizations and programs, to set forth a road map: How are we going to get there, what's it going to take, what needs to happen. I think people have to have a clear understanding of what it all involves. It's not just a magic wand, filing a lawsuit or passing a law. It's kind of a holistic approach."

To learn more about the Michigan ACLU LGBT Project, go to www.aclumich.org.

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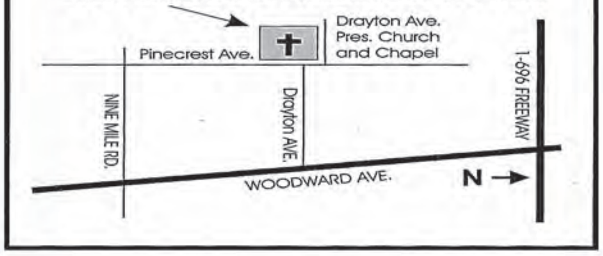

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A cookbook for LGBT gourmets

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Too many cooks spoil the broth, so the well known saying goes. Believe it or not, Julia Child was one. In addition to being a sometime World War II spy recruit, Julia was – tell us it isn't so – homophobic. Quite.

Seems back in 1992 she was sued for blocking a gay chef from getting an executive position with the American Institute for Wine and Food. She was none too happy with gays as "next year's competition." As chefs, that is.

Times have changed. Out magazine now lists 10 of the top gay American chefs. Each creating tempting, scrumptious, mouthwatering, glorious dinners, desserts, salads, entrees – all with panache, unique rainbow flair.

Says Out, "These queer chefs command some of the top kitchens in the world. As a group they have one thing in common – a passion for great cuisine."

It must have been an oversight on some editor's part not to have included master chefs from our turkey neck of the woods. Ferndale. Royal Oak. Detroit. There are many. Members of MCC-Detroit. Sharing 350 choice recipes that are, as a brand-new, church-sponsored cookbook containing them, puts it, "Simply Divine!" (Have a blessed baster.)

The 184-page, three-ring, vinyl binder compendium – featuring cover art by starving artist Charles Alexander – offers lots of inspirational taste treats: appetizers, beverages, soups, salads, vegetables, main dishes, bread rolls, desserts, and (truly) miscellaneous creations.

Under the latter cornucopia there's Shirley Harris' "Heart Attack on a Plate" Mac and Cheese. Adds chef Shirley, "This evolved when my folks were just married. Dad kept asking for more cheese. More cheese. So, mom used 3 pounds! She lived to 86. Dad's going strong at 90!"

Under "Main Dishes" there are 26 recipes contributed by svelte-hearted Rev. Deb Dysert. (How she finds time to cook, teach school, and preach – dieting, as a now-and-then avocation – is transcendental.) Her "Best Way to Roast A Turkey" offers expert advice for novice and pro alike. Get stuffed!

Marion Cenci, a straight ally MCC congregant, likes chicken. Her taste pleasers include: "Chicken Fingers," "Chicken 'N Stuffing Scallop," "Chicken Nuggets," and "Easy Parmesan Garlic Chicken."

She coerced her mom, Millie, to offer, a tried-and-true, "Baked Salmon Supreme."

Jerry Beaupied, who bottles and markets his own series of delicate and delightful cooking spices, offers here's how to prepare a "Standing Rib Roast." Says Jerry, "Start about 24 hours before you plan on cooking the roast." Obviously a well-seasoned comment. Haste makes waist.

Walt Grisdale, MCC-D board member and cookbook team coordinator, stirs in with "Walt's Kapusta," assuring would-be chefs that for starters the dish is thoroughly respectable. "Like many Polish dishes, the ingredients may differ from mom to mom, but one's own Kapusta is always a tasty dish for you and your company."

Walt also has a hankering for "Irish Coffee Pie." Ingredients: cold milk, Irish whiskey, instant vanilla pudding, instant coffee, Graham cracker crust, toasted coconut. "Pour into pie shell. Chill 4 hours. Sprinkle coconut on top." One slice should suffice. But, of course, never on Sunday, or during an Irish wake.

"Simply Divine Recipes," suggested as a goodwill fundraiser for MCC-Detroit by member and cookbook co-cordinator Cheryl Ferguson and digitally formatted by graphic designer/photographer Chrissy Surewater, was three months in preparing, four months in printing, debuting on Mother's Day. Available at Hart Plaza Pride Fest 2011.

Copies of "Simply Divine Recipes" are $19.95. Contact the church office at 248-399-7741. Email mccdofficead@aol.com. Tell 'um Julia sent you. (Posthumously.)

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Thursday, June 16, 2011 – 7:00 p.m.

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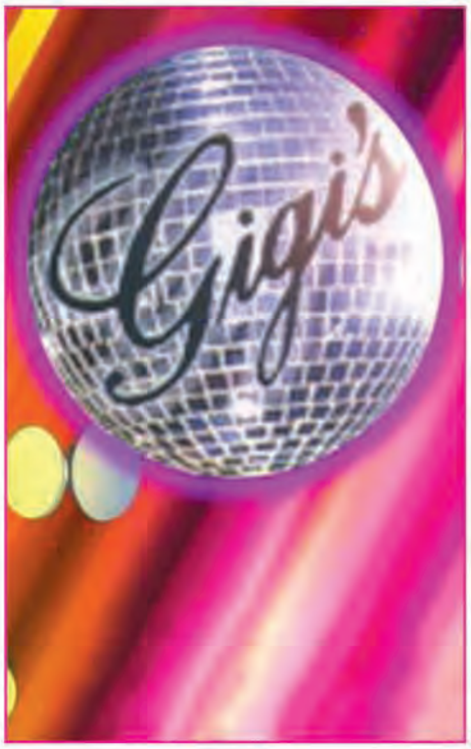

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Pyramid Stage
11:00 a.m. Parade Step-off (Griswold Street)
Noon — 7:00 p.m. Festival Activities
Main Stage
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7:00 p.m. Boat Ride After Party
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Main Stage
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Saturday, June 4, 2011

2:30 p.m.	Black Pride S
4:30 p.m.	Diva's
5:30 p.m.	Drag Show
6:30 p.m.	Eva
7:00 p.m.	Kimberly Col
7:30 p.m.	Kerli
8:00 p.m.	Alexis Jordan

Sunday, June 5, 2011

11:30 a.m.	DJG33KDOU
1:00 p.m.	Equality Mich Equality Pride Sing Out Det
1:30 p.m.	Commitment
2:30 p.m.	Drag Show
3:30 p.m.	Killer Flaming
4:30 p.m.	Invincible
4:30 p.m.	Killer Flaming
5:00 p.m.	Nervous but
5:30 p.m.	Goddess & S
6:30 p.m.	Erika Jayne
7:00 p.m.	Chris Willis

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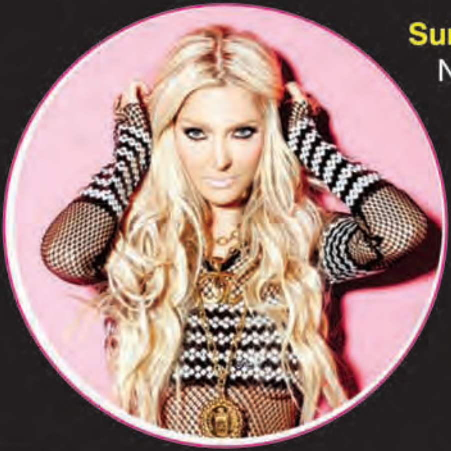
9:00 PM	Dave Aude



Sunday, June 5

Noon	Tom T / AD Cruz
1:00 p.m.	John Cruz
2:00 p.m.	DJ Hardy
3:00 p.m.	Joe Bermudez
4:00 p.m.	Josh Karmin
5:00 p.m.	Mike Trom
6:00 p.m.	Cazwell

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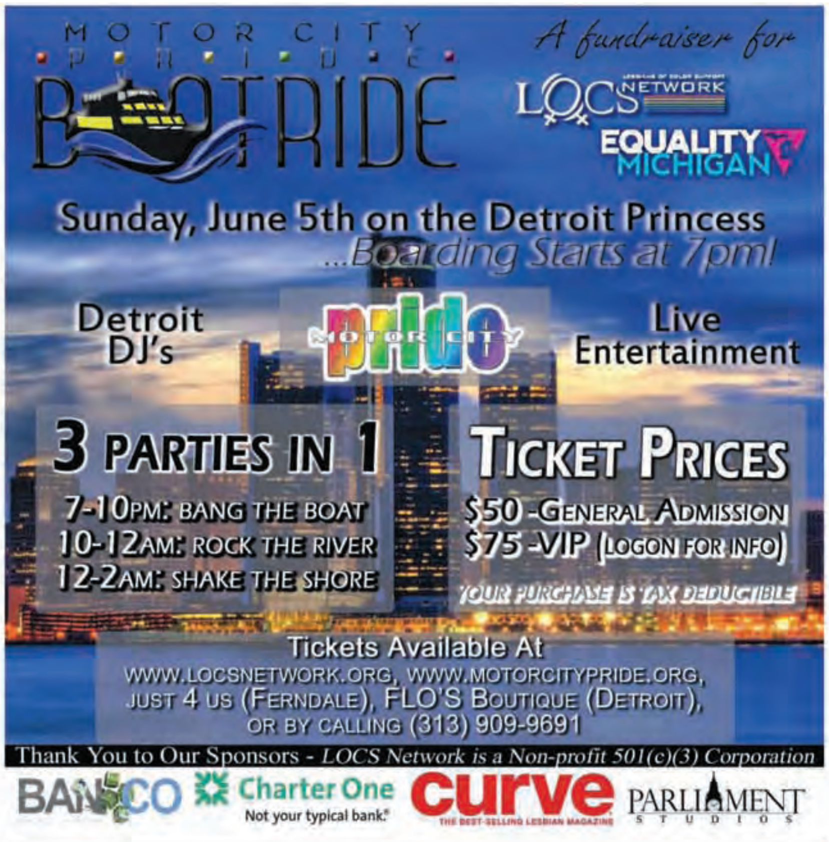

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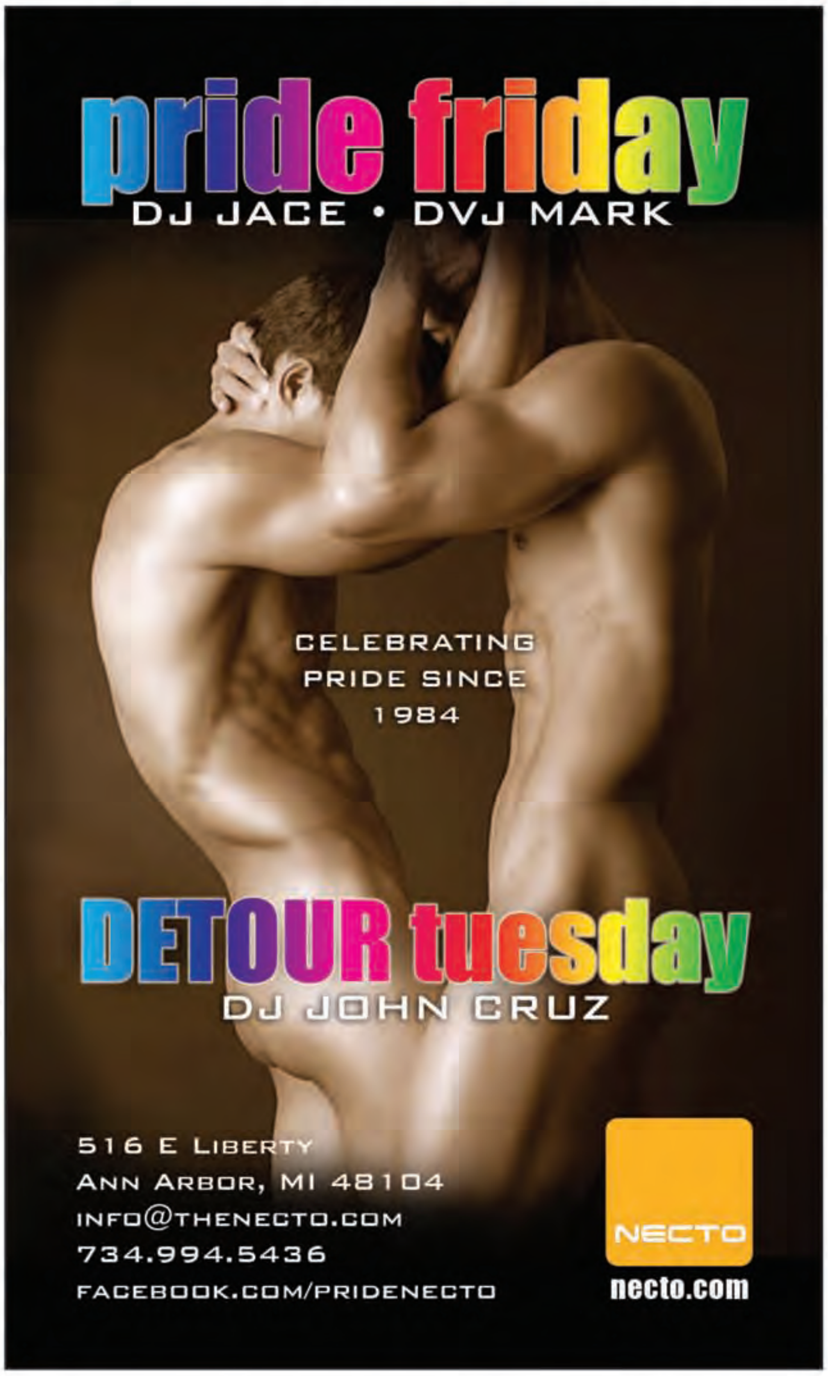

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Saturday, June 4, 2011

Noon – 2:00 p.m. Family Picnic

2:00 – 10:00 p.m. Festival Activities

Main Stage
Festival Stage
Pyramid Stage
Underground Dance Area
Beverage Sales
Vendors and Exhibits
History Area
Community Room

3:00 – 7:00 p.m. Family Area

10:00 p.m. After Party at Flat 151

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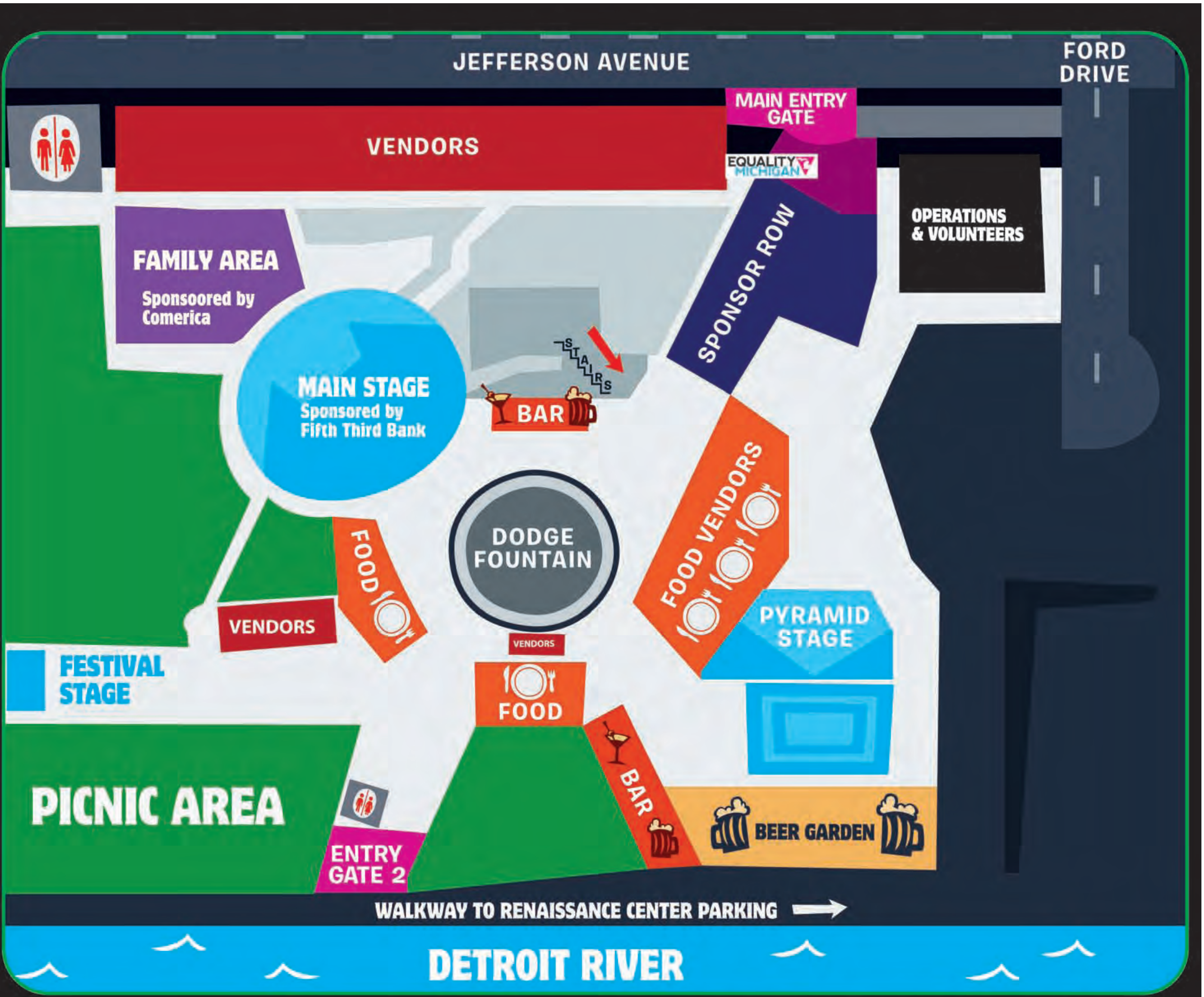
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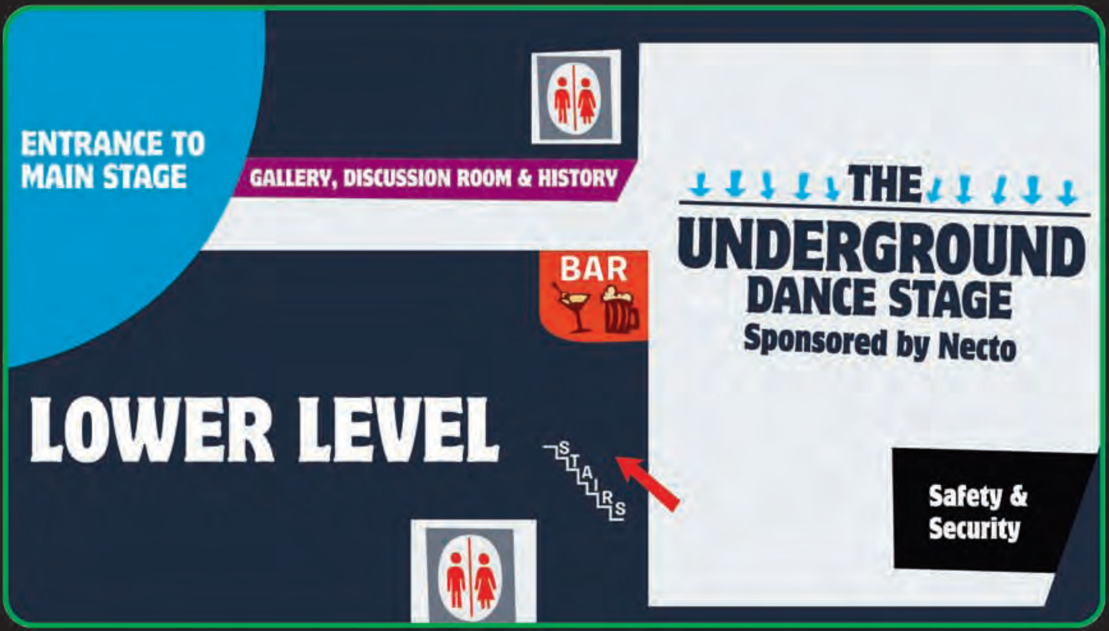
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For Festival Information Visit:

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DJ Jace: Turning tables

Local musician on planning Pride entertainment, playing set

BY SAMANTHA WHITE

Motor City Pride is celebrating a milestone this year as it returns to Detroit, where it all began 25 years ago. The festival is spreading its wings not only with a new space in Hart Plaza but with a new sound that promises to be bigger and better, with more musical acts, genres and dancing digs.

DJ Jace, born Jason Misleh, is at the forefront of the plans for this year's music lineup. The resident DJ for Friday's Pride nights at Necto in Ann Arbor, where he also lives, Jace has been playing there for six years now; he celebrated his 10th anniversary as a DJ last year.

And he can't contain his excitement for this year's Pride. "This year's Pride appeals to all demographics of the gay community," he says. "This will be the first year with national acts. There was one small dance area previously and one DJ and one small stage. This year there is more space for acts of different genres like pop, hip-hop and country."

One of those acts includes Jace himself, who will play at 6:30 p.m. June 4 in the Underground Dance Area at Hart Plaza.

"I definitely have some tricks up my sleeve," he teases.

Jace launched his DJing career in 2000, inspired by Joe Bermudez, whose versatile mixing appeals to a wide-range of different audiences and clubs.

This year he adds event planner to his list of accomplishments, taking a lead role in planning the Pride entertainment.

While he's excited about the new entertainment, he does admit it's a letdown that there are some naysayers who, in spite of the possibilities, don't want Pride downtown.

"It's sad that there are some people in our community who feel that way. Most people don't complain how 'unsafe' the city is when they are going to the casino or the Detroit Electronic Music Festival," he says, noting some of the other festivities and venues that are often frequented by suburbanites.

But, Jace says, this is a growth opportunity for the gay community.

"You have to fight for what you believe in and that's how you get change," Jace says.

And Jace is doing just that, as he continues to turn the tables, if you will, in our very own community.

For more information on Motor City Pride's 2011 entertainment line-up, visit motorcitypride.org.

DJ Jace spins at Motor City Pride June 4. Photo: Andrew Potter

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Kerli: Love Warrior

Estonian singer on segregation, her second childhood and that Lady Gaga lash-out

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Kerli doesn't like to talk about gay people. She prefers seeing everyone as simply human beings, where there is no straight or gay, no black or white.

"It really divides humans," the 24-year-old singer says. "I feel very weird saying, 'Oh, they're a couple of gays.' To me, they're just humans."

But where Kerli was raised, in the tiny European region of Estonia, that's not exactly how they were treated.

"There really is no gay scene," she says. "It's starting to emerge, and I'm trying to support it as much as I can. I'm a firm believer that everybody has the right to be whatever they want to be as long as they're not hurting anybody. And I feel passionate about love."

The performer's been on our side for some time, playing the gay club circuit, showing her support for young LGBT kids with her online street team Moon Children (iamamoonchild.net), hiring an all-gay entourage and lining up Pride performances this summer. One stop includes Motor City Pride, where Kerli, making her first Michigan appearance, will take the stage at 7:30 p.m. June 4 at Hart Plaza (Main Stage).

"I've heard so many things about Detroit, and so many great musicians come from Detroit. I really want to check out the vibe there," she says. "There's something in the air there. And honestly, I really believe that different places have their own energy. I'm very excited to play."

After releasing her chic debut "Love is Dead" in 2008, the dance-pop "bubblegoth" pixie is currently charting with the first single from its follow-up, "Army of Love," which hit No. 1 on Billboard's dance chart. Not that she cares about hits.

"My first album was a little more alternative and I didn't get any radio play, and that's hard for an artist. I didn't care at that point. I thought, 'Why would I even want to be on the radio?' I didn't think it was cool."

She's not saying much about the new "beautiful and empowering" album, due out this fall, but perfectionism plays into it somehow.

"People are looking for God, people are looking for money, people are looking for a place where they can have Chinese food delivered at 3 a.m.," she says. "I was just kind of observing humans' search for beauty through all sorts of struggle."

Kerli knows about struggle. With a population of only 5,000 people in her small town, many of them narrow-minded and ultra-conservative, the artist wasn't free to be herself. Her neon hair and quirky style was too loud for Estonia. She did what so many ostracized young people unfortunately do – she cut herself.

"I feel like I had to fight really hard to get to where I am," she says, "and now I'm just really realizing that it's not really about where you're going, it's about enjoying your experience as a human, taking it all in and appreciating the moment more."

Now she can, without worrying about what people think. How weird she dresses isn't looked down upon in America; it's encouraged, and you're not cool unless you're wearing trash bags, meat or toilet paper. Kerli wore the Charmin to make a statement.

"I felt like pop culture had kind of become more about the outfit than music or craft," she says. "It looked amazing, though."

The artist is very DIY with her outfits, and is almost offended when we mistakenly insinuate that another performer – someone by the name of Lady Gaga – creates her own costumes, like that legendary meat dress.

"She doesn't make her own clothes," she says, defensively. "Do you think she fucking hand stitched it? Fuck no."

After lashing out at Gaga on Twitter last year, does that mean Kerli still has a beef, if you will, with Mother Monster?

"No. It's fine," Kerli says. "I just feel like it's hard for every creative female artist out there because you get compared to her so much. But in a way, I'm actually really happy that there is a big artist out there who's pushing the envelope. That's good for other creative females.

"I've always done my thing and would like to get credit for it, as well."

When she moved to Los Angeles four years ago, she could finally do her own thing – completely and freely. And she quickly made up for lost time by recreating her repressed childhood. "After I moved here, I bought a Barbie tent and I'd camp out in it in my living room," she recalls.

Childhood is obviously important to her; she reaches out to kids through her Moon Children site, which promotes integrity, love and unity and has fostered many cyber friendships.

"I actually spend a lot of time online talking to a lot of young gay kids and a lot of kids who get bullied in school," Kerli says. "I feel like the real way to make the world more tolerant is for all the parents to just love their kids more. That's going to eliminate bullies. That's going to eliminate ignorance. Rather than go somewhere with a big sign and say, 'Let's fight for gay rights,' for me, the problem starts somewhere else."

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Erika Jayne: 'Gay People are a Good Time'

Artist on being mistaken for a porn star, singing about sex and performing at Pride

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Erika Jayne's never performed in Michigan before, so naturally when she does – at 6:30 p.m. June 5 at Hart Plaza (Main Stage) for Pride – the dance-pop vixen will make her Detroit-area debut in front of a bunch of gays.

Recently, Jayne gave us a buzz to talk about her big gay following, being inspired by Madonna and what to expect from her set (hint: "sass and ass").

What is it with you and gay men?

Well, I think I'm a gay man trapped inside a girl's body. (Laughs)

That's what they all say.

I hate to say it, and I know it's cliché, but it's really true.

And it's not just because you like to have sex with men?

That's part of it. Probably 90 percent of it. We have a lot to talk about – like penis sizes.

Who's the first gay person you ever knew?

I've been exposed to the gay community since I was a kid, because I was in musical theater. But honestly, I didn't know anybody was gay then. When I was about 12, I understood that people were gay. I've been mentored by gay people from age 3 on.

When did you know you had a big gay following?

When I started doing a lot of Pride events and people would know the lyrics – that was really cool. That's when I kind of figured it out.

What do you like best about playing Pride?

The energy. That Prides around the nation have everybody coming together to celebrate. And gay people are a good time.

You have a lot of gay friends I assume?

I have tons.

Do you like going to gay bars then?

It's the most fun because I can dance around, have a good time and really not worry about anything. I'll tell you a funny story: (My friends and I) went out to a straight club, and I'm totally in shallow water. I feel so uncomfortable, and they're like, "You're not having any fun. Let's go to Big Dick Thursdays at Fubar." We went to this total gay club and I was happy.

What's Big Dick Thursdays?

It's in West Hollywood and you take pictures of your penis and they vote on the biggest one. It's kind of hot. And it's fun, crazy and really cute.

It's cute?

Well, it's not cute. But it's cute, ya know? And some of those penises look pretty amazing.

What's the best you've seen?

Thick and long.

I know how much you like sex because –

That's all I talk about, right?

"Pretty Mess" is heavy on the innuendo. Why is sex such a good subject for music?

The "Pretty Mess" album was really about fantasy, love and escape. But why sex? Because everyone can relate. Everybody's either having it, or not having enough of it, or you want more, or you're having too much, or you're having it with the wrong person. It's a basic need.

What's your sex style? Are you a one-man type?

I love men, so you know – when I'm in a relationship, I'm in a relationship and when I'm not, I'm not.

Are you in a relationship?

Ohh, it depends on who's asking. I'm married to what I do.

So your boyfriend is your music?

There you go. And he's a hot one with a big dick.

Tell me about the upcoming EP.

The new music could be summed up as over-the-top glitz, glamour and fun. Just a lot of fun music – and kind of hopeful. I like to have a good time, so that's really what it's all about.

Should we expect more songs like "Rollercoaster"?

Well, that was about giving a blowjob. That's exactly where I was at that time. That's really what I was thinking, so, you know, it's organic.

You were thinking of giving blowjobs, or actually doing it?

You know, I was in that headspace, does that make sense?

You were in that *head*space.

Oh my god. I just realized what I just said. That's so corny. It's not the bleach, I really am blond!

What stage is the EP in?

There isn't a hard release date yet, but I'm definitely going to release a new single this summer, but the EP – probably late summer.

Might we hear the new single at Pride?

No. I would love to, but it's not ready.

When do you know a song is ready?

You have to know when to walk away from a song. You can constantly sit there and tweak it, but I like to do the car test, where I just drive around in my car and listen to it over and over again, and if it feels good then we're done.

I read that you're a fan of porn.

Oh my god – really?! I can't think of when I said that. But a lot of people always say, "Ew, you look like a porn star!" I'm like, "No, I'm celebrating sexuality." But I do like porn.

Have you ever thought about being a porn star?

No, no, no. Listen – no. I don't have those kinds of balls.

Which kind of porn do you watch?

Just regular boy-girl porn. I'm kind of vanilla. No craziness.

Have you seen gay porn?

I have. And I know a lot of gay guys who watch straight porn, too. I was kind of shocked by that. But I've seen gay porn, of course. It's just not something I watch.

Why'd you get into music in the first place?

As a kid I was always singing and dancing and, like I said, I did musical theater and I also had the great experience of going to a performing arts high school in Atlanta, where I grew up. It just was a natural progression. I've always loved to sing and dance, and my mom was a piano teacher and there

See Erika Jayne, page 62

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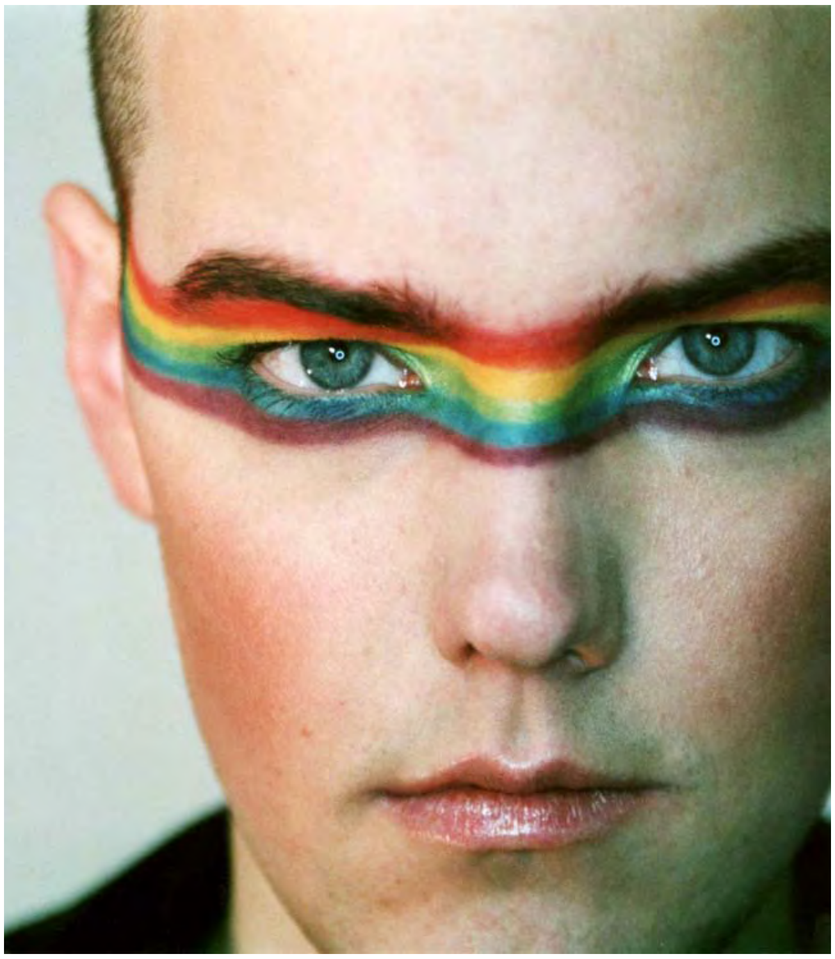

BY ANDREA POTEET

The first thing most people notice about Diamond Rings is the eye makeup.

Often streaked across his pale face in a glittering rainbow stripe, it's an integral part of the look Canadian-born John O'Regan envisioned while creating his solo electro-pop project with a fittingly dazzling name.

The makeup and gender-bending outfits provide a distraction that spurs the quiet Toronto 26-year-old out from behind his computer and onto the stage.

"Getting on stage by yourself and trying to engage with people is not always the easiest thing to do," Diamond Rings says. "The look and the reason that things have evolved in the way they have is because I need there to be a risk in it for me."

Growing up as an only child outside Toronto, Diamond Rings idolized bands from the Ramones to Grace Jones. When he attended art school at the University of Guelph, in Ontario, he studied the sights and sounds created by those theatrical artists almost as much as his coursework, often borrowing pieces of their styles to create his own. But after leaving his role as frontman John O of the post-punk Guelph band The Durbervilles, Diamond Rings says he wanted to craft a unique look to go hand-in-hand with his biographical lyrics showcased on his debut, "Special Affections," set for U.S. release this month by New York-based record label Astralwerks.

"Part of the style process is about putting myself in a position where I feel not entirely safe, a bit afraid to be totally honest," he says. "I think that keeps it fresh and keeps it exciting and dynamic, so anything I can do to kind of force myself outside of my own comfort zone is a bonus."

Part of that comfort zone involves keeping people guessing. Whether discussing his style, sound or sexuality, he refuses to be boxed in.

"Not that I'm unwilling to define myself, but I personally don't see it as being something that's necessary to do," he says. "It ultimately limits what I'm capable of doing as an artist and as a performer. I'm into just doing what I do and putting it out there and letting people figure it out for themselves."

Robyn

with Diamond Rings and Natalia Kills

7 p.m. June 4
Royal Oak Music Theatre
318 W. Fourth St.
$20 (advance)/$22 (door)
www.royaloakmusictheatre.com

His ambiguity extends to his fashion. His ensembles include anything from zebra print stripes to bejeweled basketball jerseys. A former high school jock, he says adding a twist on team sports apparel into his style is his way of turning rock tradition on its head.

"When I think of the music I grew up being into, jocks were kind of the enemy," he says. "I kind of bought into that a little bit myself. I quit all the teams I played on and kind of threw myself into music and for a long time saw the two as being kind of in opposition to one another. It's only been recently that I've realized that those kind of dichotomies are kind of stupid."

His unique style is showcased in his videos, like "All Yr Songs," and "Wait and See." The low-budget attempts were shot in about a day with help from his friends in the Toronto arts community. For the video for "Wait and See," which follows Diamond Rings and his friends dancing their way to a Halloween party, the handful of extras were friends who answered a Facebook post asking if they wanted to be in a music video.

"It's one that I watch now and kind of cringe a little bit," Diamond Rings admits. "But it's part of the process for people to see that we're kind of thinking of this as we go along. We're not waiting for permission to do something or waiting to have a big budget or the right skills. It's more of just making it happen and doing the work and putting it out there. That's what I think is valuable."

That motto extends to the creation of his solo project, another spur-of-the-moment invention, birthed while he was hospitalized for Crohn's disease shortly after moving from Guelph to Toronto in the summer of 2009.

"I brought my guitar into the hospital and I had some colored pencils and a pad and paper," Diamond Rings says. "I pretty much treated it like a forced residency. It was really good. I had a really quiet and relaxing space in which to think and get my ideas out. There were a lot of anxieties and frustrations that I was feeling about moving to Toronto and living in a big city on my own and all those are kind of expressed in the record."

The result was "Special Affections," a moody mix of confessional lyrics in Diamond Rings' brisk baritone tossed over clubby computerized beats. Sharing his solo effort with audiences has been nerve-wracking, he says, but at shows like South by Southwest and his current tour opening for Robyn, his U.S. audiences have been a receptive, diverse group.

"I try to make music that is not limited to any one style and kind of carries over to the kind of people who are interested in what I do and inspired by it," he says. "They're not just one demographic. I want my shows to be inclusive and to be open and to be safe for people to come and express themselves freely. So far, so good."

2011 FLINT PARADE OF FESTIVALS

SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

Friday, June 10 & **Saturday, June 11 • 8p**
Sunday, June 12 • 2p
Kearsley Park
produced by Kay Kelly and
City of Flint Kearsley Park Project
Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*

FLINT ART FAIR

Saturday, June 11 • 10a – 6p
Sunday, June 12 • 11a – 5p
Flint Institute of Arts
by Friends of Modern Art (FOMA)

More than 150 artists and craftspeople display their wares during this two-day fair featuring original art, pottery, jewelry, clothing and more. Live music, food and face painting are all part of the fun.

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Thursday, June 16 – Sunday, June 19
Noon – 9:30p
Riverbank Park and Max Brandon Park
by Flint Juneteenth Committee

A celebration of the Emancipation Proclamation and Afrikan American Independence. The celebration begins at Max Brandon Park beginning at noon. The parade starts at 5:30 and goes to Riverbank Park, for live music, vendors, a movie screening & more.

SLOAN MUSEUM SUMMER AUTO FAIR

Saturday, June 25 & Sunday, June 26
8a – 5p
Sloan Museum and the Cultural Center
by the Friends of Sloan Museum

See hundreds of beautiful cars, trucks, motorcyles and other unique automobiles. Family fun includes children's activities, swap meet, food vendors and more vehicles than ever before.

FLINT JULY 4TH FESTIVAL

Monday, July 4
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SUMMER THEATER FESTIVAL

Thursday, July 14 • 7p
Kearsley Park
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City of Flint Kearsley Park Project
Children's Theater: *Little Red Riding Hood*

FLINT STORY TELLERS FESTIVAL

Friday, July 15 & Saturday, July 16
10a – 10p
The Flint Public Library
by the Flint Public Library

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BUCKHAM ALLEY FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 16
Downtown Flint

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Saturday, July 23 & Sunday, July, 24
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Riverbank Park
by Afojabe Village

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In Flint

FLINT FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, July 29 & Saturday, July 30
1p – 9p
Kearsley Park Pavilion
by Flint Folk Music

In its 10th year, local, regional and nationally known musicians will perform to audiences of all ages in the beautiful open-air pavilion at Kearsley Park.

30TH ANNUAL FLINT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Thursday, August 4 • 6p – 10p • Jazz Walk
Friday, August 5 • 5:30p – 8:30p
Saturday, August 6 - Sunday, August 7
2:30p – 8:30p
Riverbank Park
by Greater Flint Arts Council

The festival provides a venue for local talent and helps cultivate Flint's local music scene. It also gives attendees a chance to see regional and national headliners perform. Food vendors, local non-profit organizations, and arts & craft vendors add to the magic and color of the festival. The festival brings a diverse crowd of nearly 10,000 to Flint.

MICHIGAN BLUES FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 13
Surface lot downtown Flint
Enjoy the music of local, regional and nationally-known blues artists.

BACK TO THE BRICKS FESTIVAL

Tuesday, August 16 – Saturday, August 20
Saginaw Street in Downtown Flint
by FACVB

In its seventh year, the festival is recognized as one of the top 50 cruises in America, drawing more than 200,000 visitors.

CRIM FESTIVAL OF RACES

Thursday, August 25 – Saturday, August 27
Downtown Flint
by the Crim Fitness Foundation

The festival features the world-renowned CRIM 10 Mile Road Race along with eight other running /walking events, a sports expo with over 60 vendors, two days of festive activities for family fitness and fun.

FLINT FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

Thursday, September 8 –
Saturday, September 10 9am – 5pm
Downtown Flint and Cultural Center
by Greater Flint Arts Council

Marvel at the magnificent artistry of quilters from around the USA. Each site offers themed quilts, demonstrations, raffles, quilt sales, lectures, and more.

5TH ANNUAL BIKES ON THE BRICKS

Friday, September 23 –
Sunday, September 25
Saginaw Street in Downtown Flint
by the FACVB & Bikes on the Bricks Committee

This unique event combines a motorcycle show and law enforcement motorcycle skills competition! Also enjoy displays, contests, food, music, a fashion show and more!

FLINT FILM FESTIVAL

Friday, October 14 & Saturday, October 15
Riverfront Banquet Center
by the Flint Film Festival Committee at Riverfront

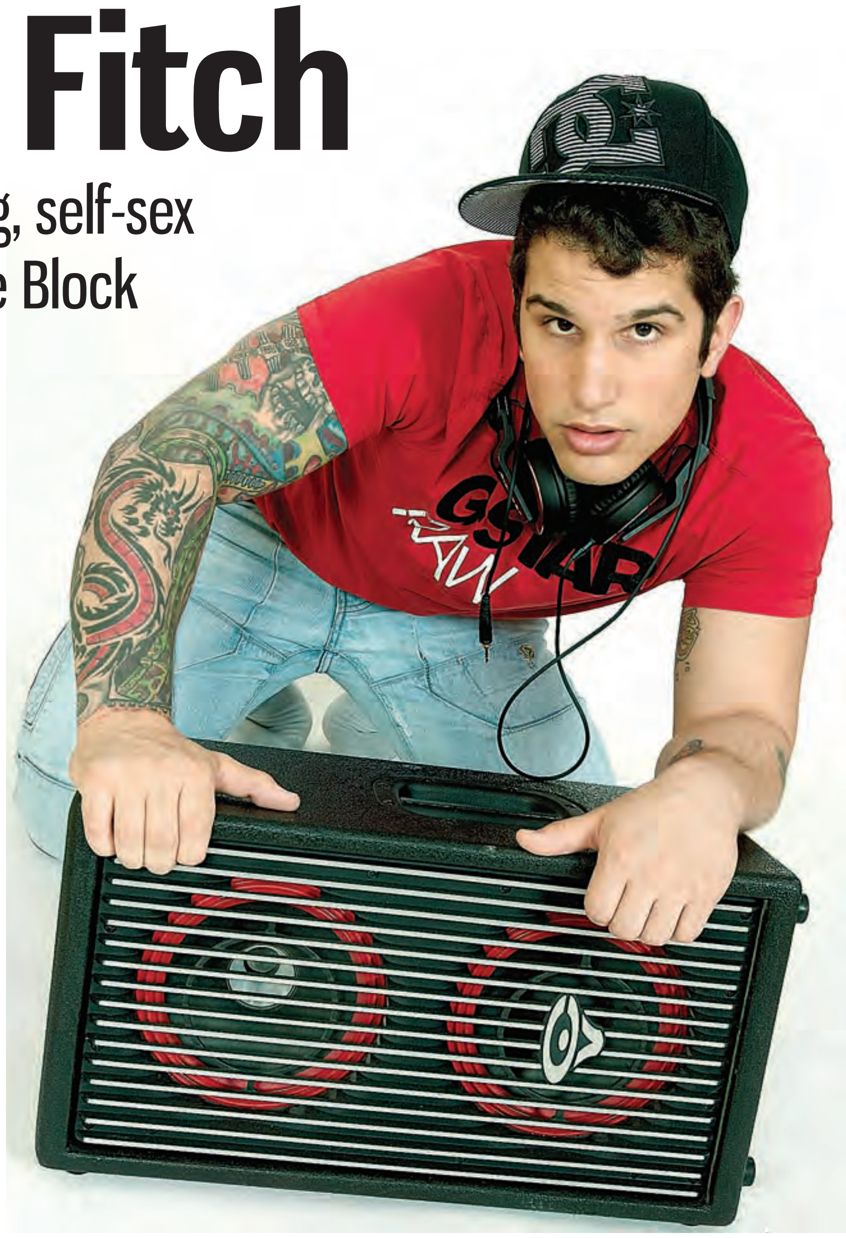
Visit **geneseefun.com** for more details
or call the Greater Flint Arts Council
at 810.238.ARTS | 810.238.2787

The Parade of Festivals marketing program
is made possible by a generous grant from
the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Pierre Fitch

Porn star talks DJing, self-sex and New Kids on the Block

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI



Porn got Pierre Fitch's career rolling, but he didn't stop there – the Canadian cutie's been DJing for nearly three years. "I've always had a passion for music," he told us recently. And his sonic enthusiasm will make its way to the Detroit area on June 4 at Ice Nightclub.

Before the gig, Fitch filled us in on his career transition, going from bottom to top and having sex with himself.

What's going on, Pierre?

Just working on my site (www.pierrefitchonline.com) right now.

What can we expect from your site?

I'm relauching everything, and it should be done in the next month and a half. It's going completely mobile compatible, where you can watch all my movies from your iPad in my member's area. It's going to be sick.

What's better – being a porn star or DJ?

I like music much better. Being a porn star was just my first job, and I'm going through a transition – being more of a DJ than porn star.

Are you giving up porn completely?

No, no. Not completely. I'm still going to have my site. I'm just not going to do as much for my site.

Why DJ?

During my 10-year anniversary of being a porn star I decided to become a DJ. It's been 12 years that I've been in the porn business. A long time. But that was my ultimate goal – to become famous when I was young.

What do you like most about DJing?

Making the crowd happy by putting some good music on.

What were you listening to as a kid?

Oh my god. I was playing rap, Ace of Base and New Kids on the Block.

Favorite New Kid?

I don't even remember what their names are it's been so long!

How often are you shooting porn now?

It's been over a year and a half. I haven't really shot anything until recently. I guess I've been lazy. (Laughs)

> "During my 10-year anniversary of being a porn star I decided to become a DJ. It's been 12 years that I've been in the porn business. A long time. But that was my ultimate goal – to become famous when I was young."

You have your own line of Fleshjack toys. Have you used any of them on yourself?

Of course. I use them on my cam shows.

What's your favorite piece?

The butt.

But aren't you more of a bottom?

I preferred to take it back in the day, but now I'm more of a top. I've been bottoming for 11 years or more. My ass is exhausted. (Laughs)

Is there an album in the works?

Not yet. But I'm going to school now to learn how to produce music, so I should have something soon.

What will it sound like?

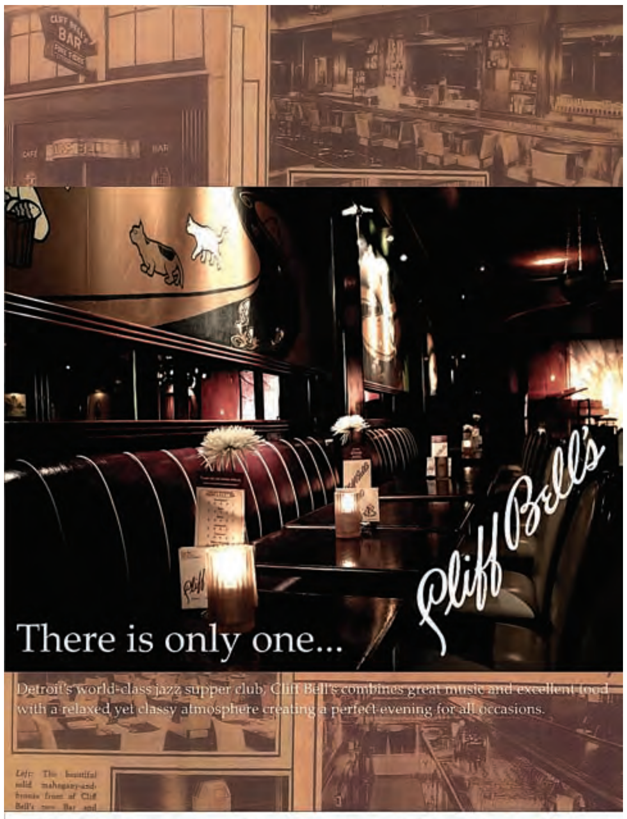
Good house music with good vocals.

Who would you want on the album?

Lady Gaga, probably. She's everyone's favorite. And Britney Spears. And Pink. And maybe Whitney Houston.

Do you have any other hidden talents besides music?

Nah, that's about what it is. But you never know. I'm more focused on DJing than anything right now. I'm probably going to shoot a few scenes for my website in the next year, but DJing is where I'm most focused. Who knows what my next projects will be. There are lots of years to go still.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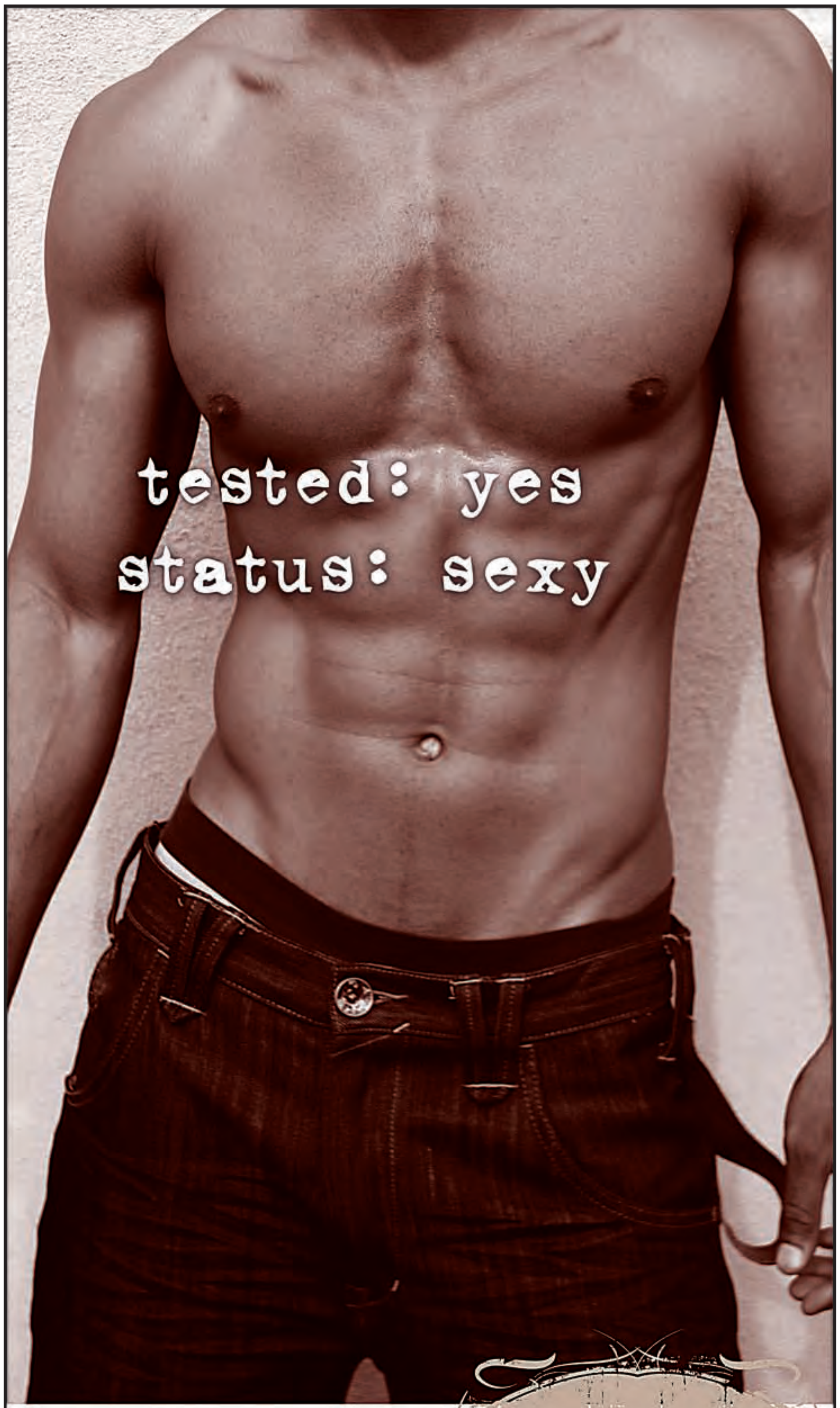

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Sat., 6/18, in Highland Park
Glory Supermarket, 11am - 4pm
Mon., 6/27, in Pontiac
Bo's Smokehouse, 12 noon - 5pm

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► Erika Jayne

Continued from p. 56

was always music in the house. I just always liked to entertain.

What kind of music was in the house?

My mother was a classical pianist, and she was a cool, hip, young mom and we were constantly listening to everything on the radio, and so there was always music around.

Who'd you grow up listening to, besides your mom?

I grew up being a big Madonna fan. Everybody says that, but I would obsess on what she was wearing and what she was doing. Just a big, big fan. Still am. That's my No. 1 girl, for sure.

Who are you inspired by now?

I'll tell you people who I'm really happy for, not necessarily inspired by. I think what Gaga's done is really great, and it's really cool to come out and do so well and have such an impact. I still love that Ms. Lopez is doing her thing. She's a sexy number, and I'm just happy to see her married with two kids but still doing it. She's a big star. Those two girls really stick out for me.

But they're people you're happy for but not inspired by?

Well, I guess I am in a way very inspired by them. That's fair to say.

Were you hesitant to say you're inspired by Gaga because you're both making pop music?

Well, everybody does the same thing. Nobody's doing anything that innovative, if you really want to know the truth. It's all pretty much the same stuff. Everybody says that Gaga does Madonna. I mean, everybody's influenced by each other – it's all good.

Speaking of Gaga, you've surpassed her and the Pussycat Dolls by having five consecutive singles top the Billboard dance chart. Is that hard to believe?

Yeah, it is! It's hard to believe that I've done that and nobody knows – I'm just kidding. It's a cool thing.

What went through your mind?

I was a little shocked. But it's cool. There's always more to do; it doesn't mean the work stops.

Who taught you to dance?

I had some great teachers in Atlanta and the girls that are in my show, they inspire me. I've just been inspired by a lot of great dancers along the way.

What's an Erika Jayne show like?

Lots of femininity. Lots of cool costumes. Lots of attitude. Lots of sass and lots of ass.

Latest obsession?

Probably these new Christian Louboutin pumps. They're pretty major. They're bright, bright blue, but I'm convinced they go with everything.

Favorite color of the rainbow?

I'm a red girl. I wear a lot of pink, but deep down in my heart I love red. It makes me feel sexy – and a little naughty.

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PRIDE CALENDAR

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2010 Dyke March in downtown Ferndale. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

FERNDALE PRIDE

Website: Ferndalepride.com
Facebook Search Term: Ferndale Pride 2011

Friday, June 3

"We are Family" Parade, 6 p.m. Withington Lot alley behind Affirmations, Ferndale.

GLBT & Allies Pep Rally, 7:30 p.m. In front of Ferndale City Hall, Ferndale.

"Illuminating Our Diversity," 9 p.m. Night March beginning in Withington Lot alley behind Affirmations, Ferndale.

Alley/Patio Parties, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Downtown pubs and restaurants including but not limited to Como's, Dino's, Danny's with Metro Detroit Softball League, Rosie's, Soho/StoneWall, Loving Touch and Sneaker's, Ferndale.

Saturday, June 4

2nd Annual Dyke March, 2 p.m. Beginning in Withington Lot alley, ending in a rally at Geary Park. After party at 9 p.m., Rosie O Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

Rosie O' Grady's Shuttle Service, all day. Shuttling attendants to and from Motor City Pride in Hart Plaza. Free. Rosie O Grady's, 279 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale.

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Hart Plaza announcing Motor City Pride's move to Detroit.

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

Website: motorcitypride.org

Facebook Search: Motor City Pride

Saturday, June 4

Family Picnic, 12-2 p.m. Carnival themed family picnic. Families bring their own lunches; Affirmations' provides cotton candy, popcorn, chips and beverages. Circus characters, gripper parachuting, magic station, bean bag/ring toss, relay racing, beading and a family photo station. South side of Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Family Area, 3-7 p.m. Dr. Dinosaur, face painting with Mr. Colors, puppet shows, arts and crafts. Lincoln Garden, Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Doggie Drag Show, 3 p.m. Prizes presented in several categories. Pyramid Theater, Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Main Stage Entertainment, 3-7 p.m. Kimberly Cole, Kerli, Alexis Jordan, Eva Soul, dives and drag shows. Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Main Dance Pavilion Entertainment, 3-7 p.m. DJ Mark, DJ Stacy Hotwaxx Hale, DJ Irene, DJ Jace, The Perry Twins, Dave Aude. Hart Plaza's "Underground," Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Official After Party, 10 p.m. Performances by celebrity DJs Dave Aude, Perry Twins, Joe Bermudez, DJ Mark and DJ Jace. $10 Cover for Flat 151, Detroit's newest event space situated on the sixth floor of the Murphy-Telegraph Building. 151 W. Congress, Detroit.

Sunday, June 5

Pride Parade, 11 a.m. Steps off at 11 a.m. and is open to any organization or business that would like to join. Applications online at motorcitypride.org/parade. Proceeds down Griswold Street from Lafayette to Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Family Area, 12-6 p.m. Dr. Dinosaur, face painting with Mr. Colors, puppet shows, arts and crafts. Lincoln Garden, Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Main Stage Entertainment,12-7 p.m. God-Des and She, Erika Jayne, Chris Willis, Nervous But Excited, The Killer Flamingos, Invincible. Hart Plaza, Detroit.

Main Dance Pavilion Entertainment, 3-7 p.m. DJ G33KDOUT, DJ Tom T and AD Cruz, John Cruz, DJ Hardy, Joe Bermudez Jash Karmin, Mike Trombley, Cazwell. Hart Plaza's "Underground," Hart Plaza, Detroit.

See **Pride Calendar**, page 67

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Michigan Pride's 2010 March to the Capitol. BTL Photo: Roxanne Frith

MICHIGAN PRIDE

WEBSITE: MICHIGANPRIDE.ORG

FACEBOOK SEARCH TERM: MICHIGAN PRIDE

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

The White Party, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. One wristband purchase for access to four venues. Participating bars: Party in the Park, Burchard Park; Esquire, 1250 Turner St.; Grand Cafe, 201 East Grand River Ave.; Sprial, 1247 Center St., Lansing.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

March to the Capitol, 11 a.m. Registration for floats & Vehicles are $25 each; register online at michiganpride.org. Walkers are free. Begins at 12 p.m. on Grand Ave. between Schoolcraft and Shiawaee St., Lansing.

Rally at the Capitol, 1 p.m. Statewide leaders delivering powerful and inspirational speeches to help us all focus our efforts in the next year. Capitol Steps, Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Commitment Ceremony, 1:45 p.m. Group commitment ceremony on the Capitol steps. Pre-registration available online, and during the Rally. Participants can expect to receive a certificate. No fee, but donations to the minister and church are appreciated. Capitol Steps, Capitol Ave., Lansing.

Pride Festival,11-8 p.m. Live entertainment such as Pop Goes the Gio Show, Kim Sorter, Sean Ensign, Baby Gaga, Melissa Totten and Sista Otis. Youth area with carnival games, a bounce house, playground and face painting. Open air bar, and a diverse array of for-profit as well as non-profit vendors offering rainbow merchandise and information about resources for LBGTQ advocacy. Admission: $5, free for members of Michigan Pride. Burchard Park, Old Town (Turner St. and Grand River Ave.), Lansing.

KALAMAZOO PRIDE

WEBSITE: WWW.KGLRC.ORG/PRIDE

FACEBOOK SEARCH TERM: KALAMAZOO PRIDE

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Kalamazoo Pride Festival, 2-11 p.m. Co-hosts Adam F. Carter and drag king G.Q. Joe. Performances from Le Souk Dance Company, folk duo Nervous But Excited and Dunyua Drummers. Keynote Speaker: Ignacio Rivera. Arcadia Creek Festival Place, 145 E. Water St., Kalamazoo

See Pride Calendar, page 68

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WEST MICHIGAN PRIDE

Website: westmipride.org

Facebook Search Term: West Michigan Pride Festival 2011

Friday, June 17

Pride Movie Night, 6-9 p.m. Includes film ticket and free glass of wine. Admission: $10. Wealthy Theatre, 1130 Wealthy St. Southeast, Grand Rapids.

Saturday, June 18

Western Michigan Pride Festival,1-9 p.m. Alexis, Nervous But Excited, Potatoe Babies, West Michigan Gay Men's Chorus. Food, entertainment, beer tent, vendors. Riverside Park, 2001 Monroe St., Grand Rapids.

Pride at Eve, 8 p.m. Hor d'oeuvres and Vodka drinks, a fashion show at 11 p.m. sponsored by Matthew Agency, AK Rikks and The Eve. Admission: $5. Bob Nightclub, 20 Monroe Ave. Northwest, Grand Rapids.

Pride Banquet 2009 at the Ukranian Cultural Center in Warren. BTL Photo: Jessica Carreras

ANNUAL PRIDE BANQUET

website: goaffirmations.org

phone: 248-398-7105

Thursday, June 23

25th Annual Pride Banquet and Awards Ceremony, 6 p.m. Collaborative event produced by the Forum Foundation, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit, Just4Us, Gay/Lesbian Educators Association of Michigan, Black Pride Society and Renaissance Unity to recognize LGBT leaders' contributions and involvement in Michigan's LGBT movement.

PERCEPTIONS

Website: perceptionssv.org

Phone: 989-891-1429

Tuesday, June 28

3rd Annual Saginaw Valley LGBT and Ally Pride Awards Banquet, 6 p.m. To remember the Stonewall Riots, educate the LGBT community and honor individuals for their outstanding service to the Saginaw Valley LGBT community. Catered by Savoy Grill. Andersen Enrichment Center, 120 Ezra Rust Drive, Saginaw.

TRI-CITY PRIDE

Facebook Search Term: Tri-City LGBT Pride

Saturday, June 25

Tri-City Pride Festival, 1-7 p.m. Musicians: The MELtones, Tama Michaels. Keynote Speaker Alicia Skillman, ex-executive director of the Triangle Foundation. Childrens activities, food, local art museum and more. Ojibway Island, Ezra Rust Dr., Saginaw

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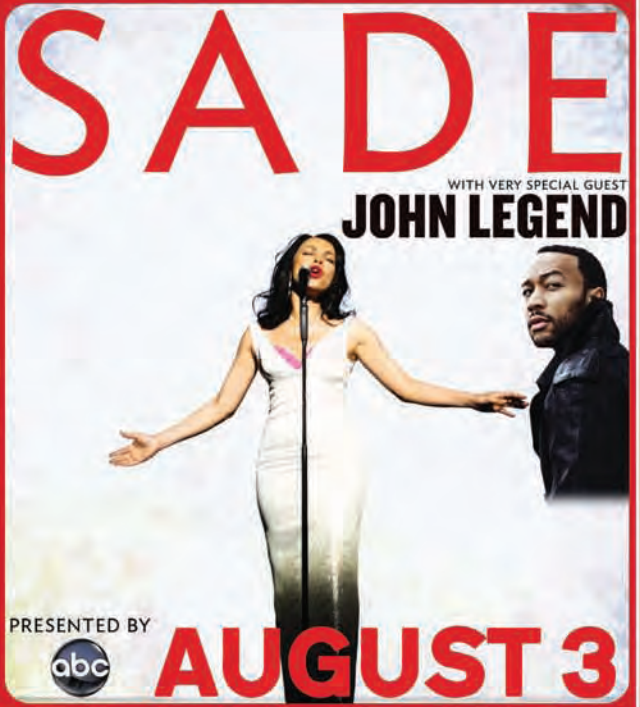
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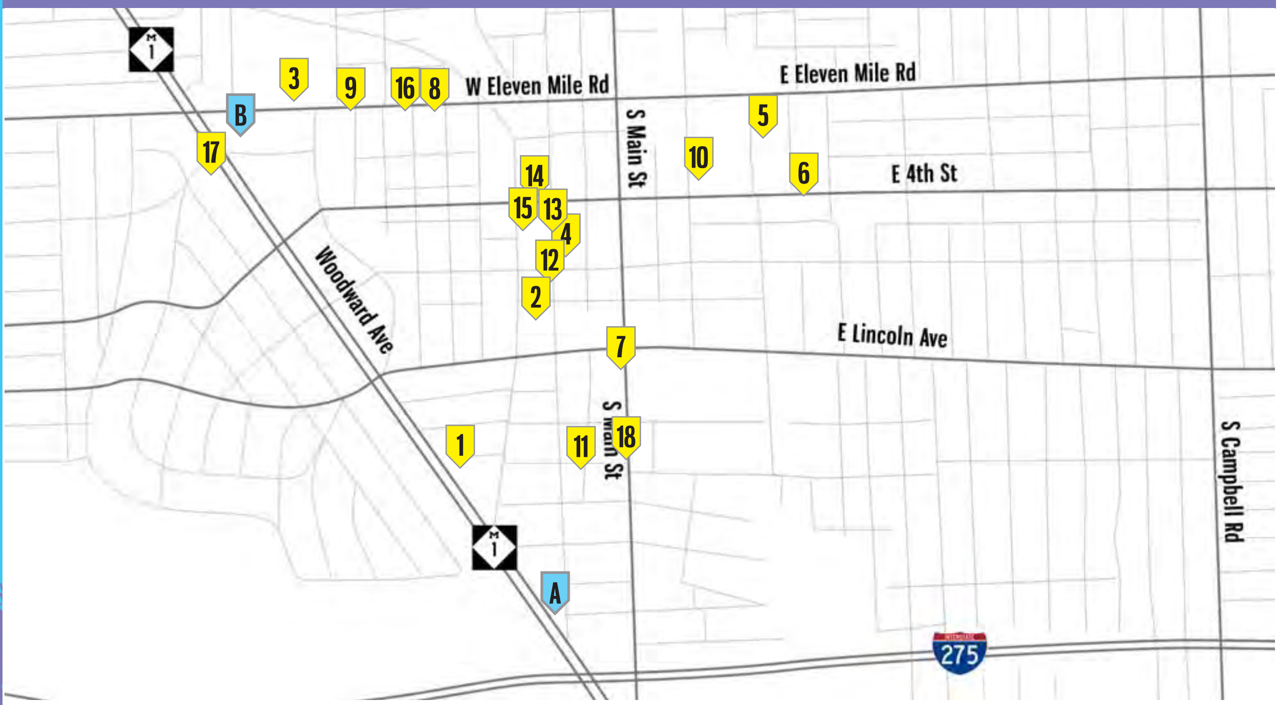

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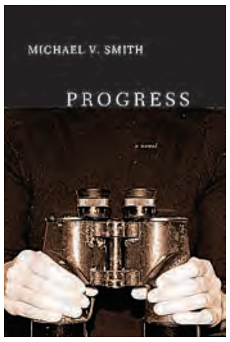
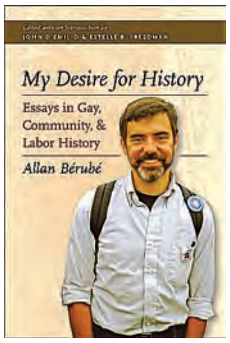


“Progress,” by Michael V. Smith. Cormorant Books, 262 pages, $21 paper.

Fifteen years and a haunting secret separate siblings Robert and Helen when he lands on her doorstep one day – the day Helen, while visiting the grave of a lost love, witnesses a horrific dam construction accident that is subsequently covered up. Life has stalled for Helen: she stayed in her small town to care for her parents, one frail, the other alcoholic; she can’t move on from her fiancée’s war-time death; and she won’t abandon her home though the land around her will soon be flooded when the dam is completed. Helen has long thought her younger brother dead, so his reappearance unsettles both her and her neighbors. Robert fled the family when his father learned he was gay, hustling the big-city streets to get by until rescued by an older man, Colin, whose connection to Helen’s beau is the heartbreak at the core of the story. Canadian writer Smith’s meticulous second novel is propelled by the jarring intersections of its principal characters, with writing that is elegant, laconic and emotionally piercing,

“Ditched,” by Josie Gordon. Bella Books, 288 pages, $14.95 paper.

There are cozy mysteries and bloody mysteries, police procedurals and private-eye plots. And, in the etymology of the genre, there are capers, featuring a lovable bungler who somehow, with much wackiness, solves the crime. That’s the stuff of the parallel plots in Gordon’s third book (after “Toasted” and “Whacked”). Episcopalian priest Lonnie Squires, dumped by her girlfriend in an earlier novel, learns that her decade-dead Aunt Kate has willed her a fortune – as long as she races a classic Ford Fairlane 500 around Lake Michigan, documenting her trip with photographs. At the same time, the town’s fiercely ambitious councilwoman, Star Hannes, resurrects seven civic laws enshrined in the town’s founding charter, from “No cursing in public” and “No dogs allowed in parks” to “No one may speak to a minister serving a congregation within twenty-four hours of that minister’s Sunday church duties...” – all restrictions aimed, it turns out, at the Rev. Squires and her beloved dog, Linus. There’s a murder, and it’s solved, but the fun of this comic caper lies in its exuberant silliness.



“My Desire for History: Essays in Gay, Community, & Labor History,” edited by John D’Emilio and Estelle B. Freedman. The University of North Carolina Press, 344 pages, $24.95 paper.

Allan Bérubé, whose essays are collected here by two gay studies compatriots, is best known for his astounding 1990 book, “Coming Out Under Fire: The History of Gay Men and Women in World War Two,” drawn from military documents and oral accounts by several dozen surviving veterans. Bérubé died in 2007; excerpts from his unfinished history of the gay-friendly Marine Cooks and Stewards Union are included, as is early writing on gay bathhouses, lesbians living as men, his own life as a gay white man, the early days of AIDS, and the plight of lesbians during the McCarthy era – all filtered through his instincts as a self-taught social historian and the lens of his working-class roots. Editors D’Emilio and Freedman introduce the intellectually and historically rich essays with a lengthy mini-biography that expresses both their love for the man and their admiration for his mind. This book is a terrific tribute to a lost queer thinker.

Featured Excerpt

Donny took us to a gay rodeo. Was it fun? I don’t know – the people there seemed to enjoy themselves. The rodeo looked like a scene from a B movie – somewhat over the hill. The stalls were totally apolitical, no books, pamphlets, no one collecting for AIDS, just shoeshine boys and clothes salesmen, and these gaunt, middle-aged men with cowboy boots and Stetsons. Roly-poly dykes line-dancing in a tent where the same drag queens routinely camped it up in moustaches and high heels. Donny had his boots shined and met a “fluffer” from Colt Studios – a rather nice young man who was employed to give blowjobs to porn stars to warm them up...

-from “Smiling in Slow Motion,” by Derek Jarman

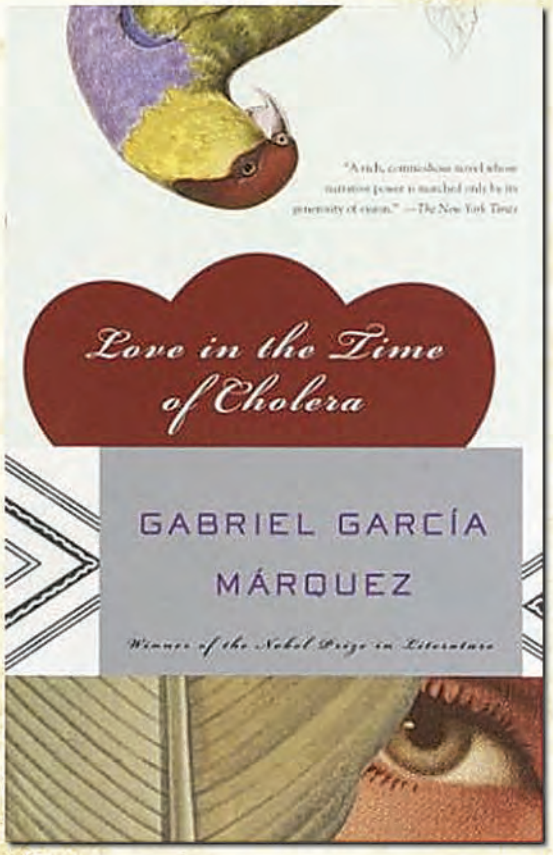
“Smiling in Slow Motion,” by Derek Jarman. University of Minnesota Press, 392 pages, $18.95 paper.

A decade after British publication, the last diary by filmmaker Jarman, recording the minutiae of his days from May 11, 1991 to just two weeks before his death in February 1994, joins his canon of earlier diaries and film scripts in print in the U.S. Fans of queer film know Jarman from “Sebastiane,” “Caravaggio,” “Jubilee” and “Blue”; this diary, along with the earlier “Kicking the Pricks” and “Modern Nature,” reveals the man behind the art. He is sometimes catty, dismissing gay actor Ian “Serena” McKellen (who came out more than 20 years after the director) as having ”a heart as straight as a die.” More often, he is wry, particularly about his declining health, candid about his cruising, scathing about the conservatism British and American politics, and committed to radical politics. Like the best of diaries, commonplace moments – quiet times in the garden, a cuddle with his lover – dominate. But the small bits add up to a moving, majestic chronicle of an artist’s indomitable will. And there is a superb companion read: Tony Peake’s insightful “Derek Jarman: A Biography,” out of print for a decade.

Footnotes

JOANNA RUSS, THE pioneering lesbian/feminist author of the novels “The Female Man,” “Picnic on Paradise” and the novella “On Strike Against God” – a semi-autobiographical story about lesbian love – died April 29 in Tucson, after a series of strokes. Her nonfiction collections include “How to Suppress Women’s Writing,” “What Are We Fighting For?: Sex, Racism, Class, and the Future of Feminism” and “Magic Mommas, Trembling Sisters, Puritans and Perverts: Feminist Essays.” Her one book for children was “Kittatnny: A Novel of Magic,” published by the lesbian press, Daughters. Russ was 74... PLAYWRIGHT DORIC WILSON, who was present at both the birth of gay theater in Manhattan in the early 1960s and for the three nights of the Stonewall Riots in 1969, died in New York on May 7. He was one of the first resident playwrights at the legendary Caffe Cino in Greenwich Village – and also a “star” bartender at post-Stonewall gay bars like the Spike. In 1974 he founded TOSOS (The Other Side of Silence), the first professional theater company devoted to gay plays, staging work by Noel Coward, Joe Orton, Robert Patrick, Martin Sherman, Terrence McNally and Lanford Wilson; the company was resurrected in 2001 and continues to produce plays. Wilson was 72.

Richard Labonte has been reading, editing, selling, and writing about queer literature since the mid-’70s. He can be reached in care of this publication or at BookMarks@qsyndicate.com.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The Wilde Awards get even wilder (and wider) for 2011

Announcing the 2011 Wilde Awards nominations

BY BTL STAFF

"The Drowsy Chaperone" is the most nominated production of the 2010-11 season. Photo: Performance Network Theatre

Although Michigan's 2010-11 professional theater season opened amidst a still-sputtering economy, thespians statewide didn't let skyrocketing gasoline prices, an unusually snowy winter and the rainiest (and coolest) spring in recent memory deter them from raising their curtains – and keeping them up – for yet another memorable year. Rather, theater executives all across the state seemed invigorated by the challenges they faced – and many were rewarded with sold-out houses, while others extended runs of their popular shows.

And a few brave souls came together, threw caution to the blustery Michigan winds, and opened theaters of their own.

So yes, Michigan's professional theater industry found itself alive and reasonably healthy at the close of the 2010-11 season. And what a season it was!

Proving that quality theater is appreciated and supported by area theatergoers, several significant anniversaries were celebrated throughout the year. Meadow Brook Theatre turned 45, while two others – Michigan Opera Theatre and the UDM Theatre Company – observed their 40th birthdays. Joining the party were The Purple Rose Theatre Company at 20, while The Abreact and Water Works Theatre Company both reached the ripe old age of 10. Mother Nature, though, had a vicious way of wishing Water Works a happy birthday: A heavy thunderstorm blew apart its outdoor stage, but since the show must go on, staff and volunteers quickly repaired the damage in time for that night's performance!

Unlike recent years, however, the winds of change were relatively quiet in the executive offices. Alex D. Hill came on board as executive director of Magenta Giraffe Theatre Company, replacing Lori-Goe Nowak who moved on to other opportunities, while Inga R. Wilson was named artistic director of Planet Ant Theatre.

Other changes were in the wind, however. West Michigan improv troupe Crawlspace Eviction found a new home at Farmers Alley Theatre, while the Blackbird Theatre moved to the festive Braun Court in Ann Arbor's Kerrytown District.

Two theaters, however, closed their doors: The popular Bon Ton Room stunned Jackson-area fans with its closure earlier this spring, while the VanBuren Street Theatre shut down – possibly for only a short while – following the unexpected death of its founder, Michael Richard Asiala. Meanwhile, Augusta's beloved Barn Theatre, a favorite summer stock destination, took 2010 off to plan for its future. (And they succeeded, as a full 2011 season began May 31.)

But as the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens – or in this case,

See Wilde Awards, page 78

Boy meets girl, with an Edge

BY CAROLYN HAYES

REVIEW

'The Last Five Years'

The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Thursday-Sunday through June 5. $22. 734-268-6200. www.theencoretheatre.org

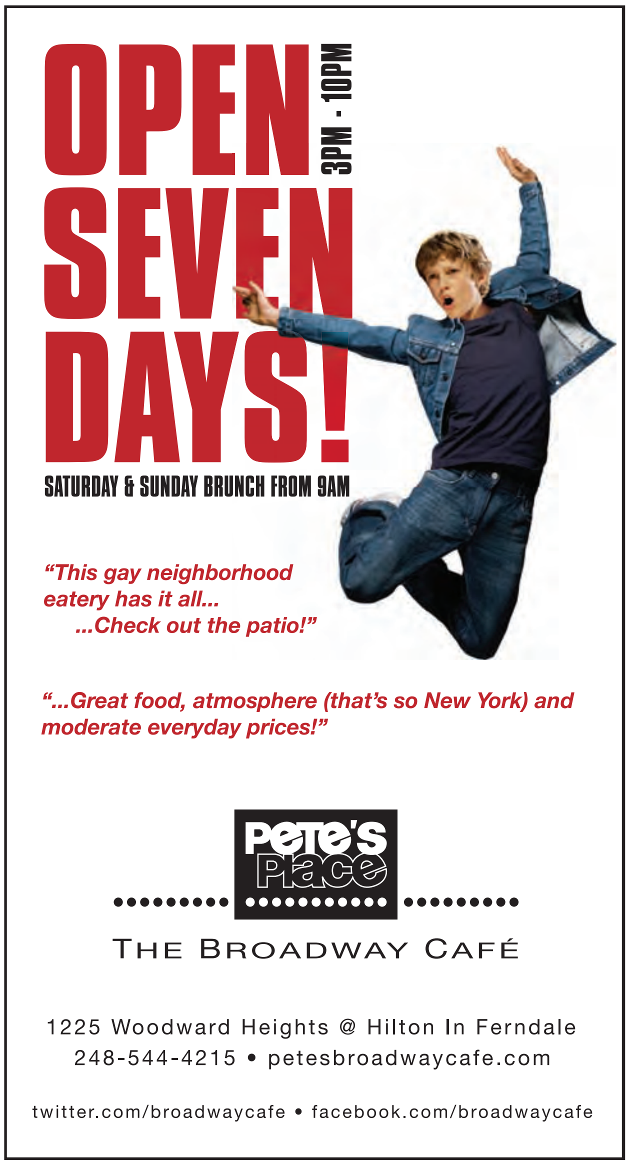
The Encore Musical Theatre Company is once again flexing a different set of musical muscles. Its Encore on the Edge series provides a home for more unconventional, contemporary fare, encouraging devotees of the classic American musical to discover just how limitless and creative the genre can be. The second entry in the series, Jason Robert Brown's "The Last Five Years," brings familiar, simple storytelling into a cool new context: As directed by Daniel Cooney, the production is a musically gorgeous depiction of a romance from beginning to end, but it subverts expectations by also portraying it from end to beginning.

Jamie and Cathy (Steve DeBruyne and Thalia Schramm) meet, fall in love, marry, and watch their relationship crumble: This is the entirety of the plot, and how the audience witnesses it – through Jamie's eyes, at least. However, through alternating songs and swapped perspectives, the play also takes the opposite view. That is, Cathy's story begins at the breakup and plunges backward, reliving the milestones of their love in reverse order; by the end of the play, she's fresh off the promise of their first date just as he calls it quits. Husband and wife have utterly opposing timelines, and their perspectives on the relationship are as different as their chronology, although Brown's excellent script and thoughtful staging clearly ease the viewer through the unusual concept. What they do have in common is amazing music, which is the absolute pinnacle of this production. The songs have a contemporary feel and structure, especially in terms of shifting keys and meters, but the two performers and three accompanists (led by music director Brian E. Buckner) triumph as they make such loveliness seem so easy.

The structure is more than just unusual for its own sake; Cooney and company deftly highlight the contrasts ingrained in the characters' stories and motivations that all but ensured the relationship's failure. Seen at a distance, the narrative seems to encourage taking sides, first with brokenhearted Cathy against Jamie, whose megalomaniacal tendencies are all the more callous in a state of bullish infatuation, and later empathizing with frustrated Jamie against Cathy, whose innocent neediness wells up just as her husband can no longer stand it. The disconnect makes the viewer yearn for the characters' connection, but when it happens – just once, at their wedding – the moment feels doubly wonderful and awful, as the characters perform a duet of forever and each other, so beautiful in the moment but as hollow as the lie it will prove to be.

Thalia Schramm and Steve DeBruyne in "The Last Five Years." Photo: The Encore Musical Theatre Company

To read the complete review, log on to www.EncoreMichigan.com or www.pridesource.com.



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NEXT FALL
BY GEOFFREY NAUFFTS
JUNE 2 – JULY 3
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► Wilde Awards

Continued from p. 77

several. Stormfield Theatre found a permanent home in Lansing’s Frandor Shopping Center and produced its first full season of fully staged shows. The Michigan Actors Studio, a state licensed trade school, returned to its roots as the former Detroit Ensemble Theatre and began producing a season of professional shows in funky Ferndale. Downriver, The AKT Theatre Project morphed from a summer educational workshop program for high school students into a professional theater, while Downtown Battle Creek became home to What A Do Theatre. And The New Theatre Project burst onto the scene in Ann Arbor with an innovative approach to producing theater.

Like the phoenix, Plowshares Theatre Company rose from its self-imposed rest and returned to active duty in the spring, with a full season planned for 2011-12.

Elsewhere, The Encore Musical Theatre Company got edgy with its Encore on the Edge series, aimed at theatergoers who like their musicals a bit more contemporary and adult-oriented. Also, a handful of professional theaters in Southeast Michigan joined with their non-professional sisters to become part of the national Free Night of Theatre campaign. And the Michigan Equity Theatre Alliance received a $250,000 grant from the Ford and Kresge Foundations to fund the implementation phase of its project.

But that’s not all.

Two local actors reached a significant milestone this past season, one that happens infrequently here and elsewhere. Michelle Mountain and Jim Porterfield celebrated their 1,000th performance on the stage of The Purple Rose Theatre while appearing together in the world premiere of “Some Couples May...” by Carey Crim. Both are longtime resident artists at the theater.

Two other actors, though, took the old theatrical saying “break a leg” a little too literally – ironically, while both appearing in different plays directed by Lavinia Moyer Hart. Samantha Rosentrater broke an ankle while appearing in the Hilberry Theatre’s production of “The Cider House Rules, Part II: In Other Parts of The World.” Only a handful of weeks later, Laurel Hufano broke her ankle while appearing in “The Model Apartment” at The Jewish Ensemble Theatre. We wish them both a speedy recovery!

So what does all this prove, you might be asking yourself? Just that Michigan’s professional theater industry is constantly evolving – yet one thing never changes: Their hard work and dedication to their patrons never waver – and that’s what we’re honoring with nominations for The Tenth Annual Wilde Awards!

The nominations

Beginning May 19, 2010 and ending 12 very quick months later, Between The Lines and EncoreMichigan.com’s theater critics took to the highways and reviewed a record number of shows at more theaters than ever before. But more than just the numbers increased, explained Theatre and Arts Editor Donald V. Calamia. “For the first time ever, we reviewed shows at nearly every professional theater in Michigan, and to the best of my knowledge, no publication in the state has ever done that before.”

Joe Plambeck, seen here in his nominated performance from “Love! Valour! Compassion” at The Ringwald. Photo: Who Wants Cake?

The decision to expand statewide, Calamia said, was one way to celebrate the tenth anniversary of The Wilde Awards. “With print media showing less and less interest in theater every year, we decided it was time to take responsibility for covering the entire state. For the previous nine years we grew and solidified our reputation for quality theater coverage throughout Southeast and Mid Michigan, and so we figured our 10th year was the perfect time to go statewide. After all, someone has to do it – so why not us?”

Simultaneously, one other change was implemented that impacted this year’s nominations – a decision aided by the immediacy of the internet. “We went from reviewing only shows that ran three weeks or more to shows that ran five consecutive days or two weekends or more – and that added several shows to our schedule,” Calamia said. “Before, with only a weekly print publishing schedule, it didn’t make sense to review short-run shows. But with daily updates to EncoreMichigan.com, we can now get reviews online within 24 hours after we see a show. And that provides a very useful service to both our readers and our theaters alike.”

Winners of The 2011 Wilde Awards will be announced at a delightfully prestigious ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 24 at Detroit’s Gem Theatre.

The result, Calamia continued, means the competition to earn a Wilde Awards nomination has increased tremendously. “And as you’ll see, there are a lot of new faces in the race this year!”

Joining Calamia this past season on the mad dash across the state were critics Martin F. Kohn, Michael Margolin, Jenn McKee, John Quinn, Bridgette M. Redman and Judith Cookis Rubens. Assisting were David Blackburn, who left the team last summer to pursue other opportunities, and guest critic Carolyn Hayes, better known as the Rogue Critic. It’s an impressive team with a variety of voices and styles, Calamia noted. “And that’s what makes our coverage so successful. These are all professional writers with years of experience, and they bring to their work a unique and broad perspective that makes their work not only informative, but fun to read.”

How do you whittle down 195 productions and hundreds of actors, directors and technicians to a handful of nominations in 26 categories?

But, he chuckled, “Whether you agree with us is another story.”

Together the team reviewed a record-shattering 195 productions at 53 theaters or venues across the state. “And what we found – for the most part – was a lot of very good and very entertaining theater wherever we went,” Calamia said.

The increased number of theaters and reviews not only added to the already hectic workloads of the critics, it also presented them with a significant challenge: How do you whittle down 195 productions and hundreds of actors, directors and technicians to a handful of nominations in 26 categories? “It wasn’t easy,” Calamia laughed. “But we did it – and not one of us was harmed in the process!”

The result, he said, reflects a fine representation of the excellence found across the state by each of the critics.

In total, 70 productions earned at least one nomination, as did 34 theaters. Plus, Calamia noted, “There are a handful of special awards that will be given out as well.”

Unlike prior years when one theater company or one show dominated the nominations, this year is different. “And we suspect there will be a lot of eyebrows raised over the nominations!”

Leading the nominations with six is a musical that earned high praise from theatergoers and critics alike: Performance Network Theatre’s “The Drowsy Chaperone.” Not far behind with five was yet another blockbuster, “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” at Mason Street Warehouse. Four shows tied with four nominations each: UDM Theatre Company’s “A Life in the Theatre,” Meadow Brook Theatre’s “Dracula, A Rock Opera,” Who Wants Cake?’s “Mercury Fur” and “Hilberry Theatre’s “Of Mice and Men.” “And exactly half of the nominated shows earned a single nomination,” Calamia said, “which shows how deep and broad these nominations are.”

With 15, the top-nominated theater is Performance Network Theatre – its fourth such honor in a row. But unlike previous years, Calamia noted, another company is nipping on its heels. “With 14 nominations, Who Wants Cake? generated a lot of buzz this year – both at The Ringwald and at the City Theatre with “Evil Dead: The Musical,” which was not eligible for an award this year – and it shows in our nominations. Which company will walk away with the most awards will be the talk of the town, I’m sure!”

Other top-nominated theaters include Meadow Brook Theatre with nine, while newcomers Farmers Alley Theatre and Mason Street Warehouse tied with eight each. Eleven theaters earned a single nomination. Which companies are missing from the list may shock some people this year, Calamia said. “When the critics came together to work out the nominations, many of the area’s popular companies were included in the initial list of potential nominations. But with competition so fierce this year, some tough decisions had to be made. And regrettably, some fine companies were ultimately dropped from consideration.”

The toughest categories to determine were the “people” categories, Calamia explained – the actors, designers and playwrights. “We started out with about 160 possible nominations and had to work through the list until we reached the final count of 97 in 19 different categories. In fact, two categories were so close and competitive that we ultimately decided to make an exception and include six nominees rather than the standard five.”

Of the 137 artists nominated this year – which includes directors whose shows are nominated in the production categories – only 14 earned more than one. Of those, actor/director Joe Plambeck leads the pack with five, while Sandra Birch and Michael Brian Ogden each are honored with three. “This probably represents the broadest range of talent ever in the history of The Wilde Awards,” Calamia said. “What this proves, to me at least, is this: that Michigan is blessed with an abundance of creative and talented souls who work hard at their craft – in whatever field that may be. And when they join together to work on a production, the result is often quite memorable.”

One nomination in particular pleases Calamia. “Only one person was nominated in each of the first eight years of The Wilde Awards, but her record-making run was shattered last year due to problems at the now-defunct BoarsHead. But Carmen Decker is back this year thanks to her appearance in “Kimberly Akimbo” at Stormfield Theatre – which makes her the only person to be nominated in nine out 10 years of The Wilde Awards! That’s rather impressive, don’t you think?”

Another Wilde Night

Winners of The 2011 Wilde Awards will be announced at a delightfully prestigious ceremony Wednesday, Aug. 24 at Detroit’s Gem Theatre. Complete details will be announced soon.

“But since this IS our 10th anniversary, expect there to be plenty of surprises, good food, entertainment and camaraderie,” Calamia concluded. “Our goal has always been to honor the excellent work produced every year by our professional theater industry – and this year, not only will it be one of the few remaining theater awards sponsored by a media company in Michigan, we’re now the ONLY ceremony to honor theaters throughout the entire state. What won’t change, though, is the fact we’ll still be the most unique and fun event of the season. It’s an exciting adult night out, and we think Oscar Wilde, our namesake, would be proud! After all, as we’ve said many times, it IS One Wilde Night!”

For all the latest Wilde Awards news, keep reading Between The Lines, EncoreMichigan.com and Pridesource.com.

For a complete list of nominations, log on to www.encoremichigan.com/article.html?article=4698

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Tony-nominated play premieres in Michigan

'Next Fall' explores religion, coming out and family

BY BRIDGETTE M. REDMAN

ANN ARBOR – In-law issues are challenging enough without life-threatening illnesses or the fact that the in-laws don't know their religious son/brother has a spouse. When the spouse is actually a boyfriend with whom he has been in a years-long relationship, things speedily shoot off the register of familial volume.

Geoffrey Nauffts' "Next Fall" explored these difficult issues on Broadway last year, snaring a Tony nominee for best play. Now it makes its Michigan premiere at the Performance Network Theater in Ann Arbor on June 2, just in time for Pride Month.

"I really respect the fact that Performance Network over the years has had a real commitment to plays that have gay and lesbian themes and content," said director Ray Schultz, who returned from Minnesota to work on this play. "I really appreciate the opportunity to come back here and work on a piece of literature that is very meaningful. It is really a fitting piece for Pride Month."

"Next Fall" is a memory play spiced with romance, comedy and drama. The playwright called it a play about faith. Adam and Luke have a five-year relationship, and Luke still hasn't come out to his family. He is a devout Christian and worries about the soul of his partner who is just as devoutly atheist. When the play opens, Adam is in a hospital waiting room as Luke was hit by a car and is in a coma. The hospital has a "family only" policy, and Luke's birth family, including a homophobic father, is also there.

PREVIEW

'Next Fall'

Previews June 2-5 & 9, then runs Thursday-Sunday June 10-July 3 at Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. $22-$41. 734-663-0681. www.performancenetwork.com

The play moves back and forth from the present to the past five years of Luke and Adam's relationship.

"The play looks at the couple's relationship and how it has developed to reach the point of where it is in the opening of the play," Schultz said. "The playwright has juxtaposed those in a fun and interesting way. I have worked hard to really embrace and enhance the aspect of memory of the couple's journey."

The play speaks to a number of different issues, Schultz said. "As a gay man I certainly respond to the relationships between the two main characters. It is a very interesting and challenging relationship because of the fact that they are coming at the issues of faith from two very polar opposite stances. Even though they disagree on that issue, they have a very strong relationship."

Actors Kevin Young and Andrew Huff play the parts of Luke and Adam respectively. Schultz attributes their having worked together before to the intensity they bring to the play.

"They have a really good chemistry," Schultz said. "They behave like a couple, and that's something that can sometimes be a difficult thing to achieve in the short amount of time available in rehearsal."

Andrew Huff and Kevin Young star in "Next Fall" at Performance Network Theatre. Photo: Sean Carter

While the play deals with a gay couple, its themes and issues are relevant for those who happen to be heterosexual as well.

"It is just fundamentally a very funny, touching and dramatic look at a relationship which I think anybody would, regardless of whether you are gay or not, respond to in a very emotional way," said Schultz. "(The playwright) chose a really human side to the potentially controversial issues of religion and atheism and how religion fits into the framework of being gay or lesbian. It shows all sides of the issue in an even-handed kind of way. I hope that audiences would come out of the play emotionally and intellectually moved, or at least willing to see sides of such complicated issues in different ways."

Gay Play Series returns to Ringwald

Longer, more exciting run planned for second set

FERNDALE – Who Wants Cake? and The Ringwald Theatre recently announced the return of its wildly popular Gay Play Series (GPS). Last year's inaugural outing was attended by hundreds of people over a single weekend. This year the festival will run over 10 days with additional programming and added festivities from June 17 through June 27 once again at The Ringwald Theatre in downtown Ferndale.

"After such a great first year, we are so pleased to be able to expand our GPS festival. We're producing more original plays, offering some staged readings, an opportunity to get to know some of this year's featured playwrights and, of course, another edition of the MisCast Cabaret," said artistic director Joe Bailey.

The 2011 GPS will kick off at 8 p.m. Friday, June 17 with the opening ceremonies that will include light food and drink and a special performance of "Streep-Tease/Penn-ography." "Streep-Tease/Penn-ography" features men performing monologues from Meryl Streep films, while the ladies will be performing Sean Penn monolgues. Featured performers on opening night include Joe Bailey, Joe Plambeck, Jamie Richards, Jamie Warrow, Melissa Beckwith, Matthew Turner Shelton, Vince Kelley, Suzan M. Jacokes, Dyan Bailey, Lisa Jesswein, Christa Coulter, Bryan Lark, Mark Sobolewski, Richard Payton, Caroline Price, Tony Gross, and Cara Trautman.

The original One-Act Festival includes nine new plays and will be performed in two blocks over four days with one additional day being reserved for all nine plays to be presented marathon-style.

Block A

"Our Little Lezzie" by Allison Fradkin
"My Cup Bearer Runneth Off" by Ron Morrelli
"Reluctant Hero" by Matt Heftler
"Love, Liza?" by Anson Mount
"What Happened When" by Daniel Talbott

Block B

"Intervention" by Dyan Bailey
"Vowed & Wowed" by Rich Orloff
"I Had to Meet You Like This Here (Again) (One More Time)" by Brian Walker
"A Few Survivors" by Jason Sebacher

Block A will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 18 and Friday, June 24, and 1 p.m. Sunday, June 25.

Block B will perform at 3 p.m. Sunday, June 19, 8 p.m. Saturday, June 25, and 5 p.m. Sunday, June 26.

Once again, audiences will be asked to vote for their favorite play. The winning production will be given a special encore performance at 8 p.m. Monday, June 27 and will receive a full production at The Ringwald

Theatre during their 2011-2012 season. This year, awards will also be given for favorite director and favorite performance.

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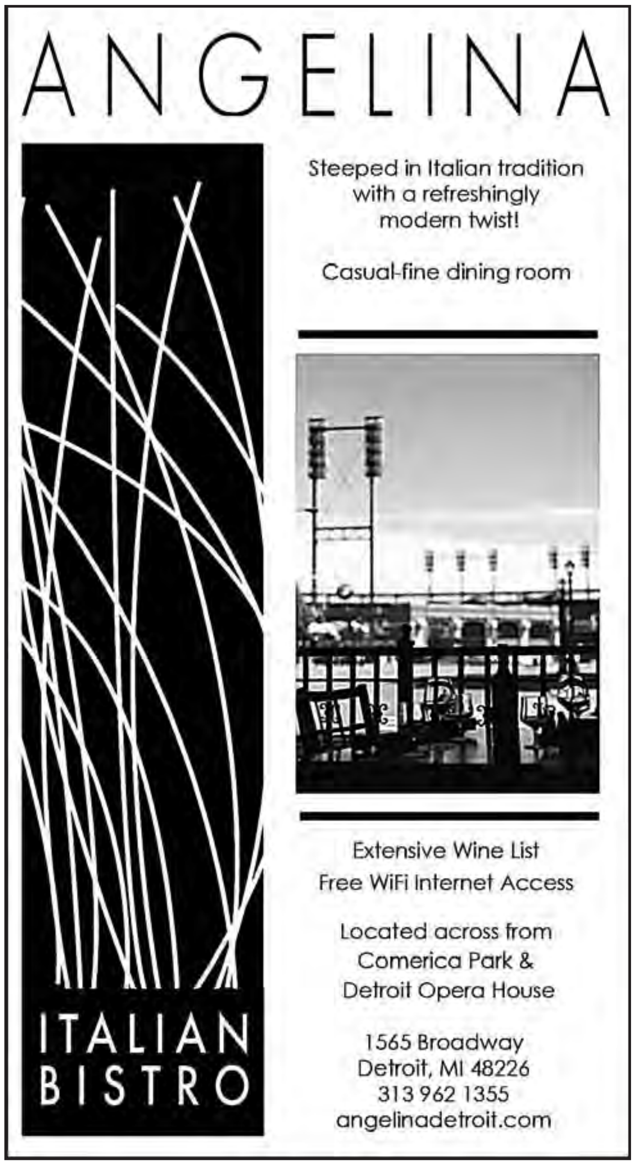
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Editor's Picks

Outings

Pride has hit Michigan full force this June. There are family picnics, banquets, bar crawls, festivals, musicals, performances, drag queens, club specials, marches, commitment ceremonies, pep rallies, benefits, awards – you name it. With festivals and events spread across the state, reaching as far west as Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids, and as far east as the Detroit River, it looks like there is something for everyone this Pride season. For a compiled list of all June Pride events in Michigan, check out page 64.

Music & More

Chelsea Handler hits the Fox Theatre in Detroit this month on her "Lies that Chelsea Handler Told Me" stand-up tour. Handler's darker sense of humor, as well as her wildly popular late-night show "Chelsea Lately," has won her a Bravo A-List Award.

The tour marks the publishing of her newest book, "Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me," released last month. Handler's previous book "Are You There, Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea" was a best-seller in 2008.

Chelsea Handler will appear at 8 p.m. June 3 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit with special guests Heather McDonald, Josh Wolf and Brad Wollack. Tickets are available at ticketmaster.org. For more information, visit chelseahandler.com.

Theater

Fancy Pants Theater is preparing for its "Second Ever Fancy Pants Gay-la!," set to take the stage this summer to celebrate alongside Kalamazoo Pride.

"The First Ever Fancy Pants Gay-la!" was created using 10 of G. William Zorn's LGBT-themed short plays. This year, we fancied things up a bit and placed the event in June, where it Pridefully belongs. Approximately a dozen original "Shorts" have been selected from over 40 entries that will be directed by a collection of local artists. The "Second Annual Gay-la!" stands to be the most powerfully flamboyant expression of artistic excellence with social relevance Kalamazoo has ever seen.

Performances are 10 p.m. June 8, 9, 10 and 11 and 5 p.m. June 12 at Studio 246, 246 N. Kalamazoo Mall, in Kalamazoo.

All tickets are $10. Call 269-381-2591 for details.

OUTINGS

Wednesday, June 1

LGBTIQ Support Group, 7 p.m. An inclusive environment for all gender who are healing from domestic and/or sexual assault. YWCA of KGLRC, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234.

Thursday, June 2

Jewish Gay Network Family & Friends, 7 p.m. LGBT group discussing issues impacting the LGBT and allied community. Meets 1st Thursday of every month. The Jewish Gay Network, 6600 W. Maple Road, **West Bloomfield**. 248-432-5661. jgnmi.org

Friday, June 3

An Evening Under the Poppy, 5:30 a.m. A Benefit for the Ferndale Public Library and Queer for Books. Featuring author Kathe Koja. Cocktails, appetizers, and live music. Victorian punk costumes encouraged: top hats, fishnets, bustles. Ferndale Public Library, 503 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-546-2504. d.c.hellenberg@gmail.com

"We are Family" Parade, 6 p.m. Ferndale Pride, Withington Lot Alley, behind Affirmations, **Ferndale**.

GLBT & Allies Pep Rally, 7:30 p.m. Ferndale Pride, City Hall, **Ferndale**.

"Illuminating Our Diversity", 9 p.m. Night march. Ferndale Pride, Withington Lot Alley, behind Affirmations, **Ferndale**.

Saturday, June 4

Motor City Pride Weekend

Michigan Pride Fest, 9 a.m. Equality Michigan, foot of Woodward, **Detroit**. 313-537-7000. motorcitypride.org

Family Picnic, 12 p.m. Carnival themed family picnic. Families bring their own lunches, supplemented with Affirmations' provided cotton candy, popcorn, chips, and beverages. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Second Annual Southeast Michigan Dyke March and Rally, 1 p.m. This all-inclusive, family friendly event celebrates and supports all expressions of gender and sexual orientation in a movement of visibility, inclusion and equality. A rally with food and a variety of entertainment will be held at Geary Park following the march. More information available online. Southeast Michigan Dyke March, Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 586-549-8054. semidykemarch.org

Motor City Pride-Doggie Drag Show, 3 p.m. Prizes presented in several categories. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride Official After Party, 10 p.m. Performances by celebrity DJs Dave Aude, Perry Twins, Joe Bermudez, DJ Mark and DJ Jace. $10 Cover for Flat 151, Detroit's newest event space situated on the sixth floor of the Murphy-Telegraph Building. Motor City Pride, 151 W. Congress, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Sunday, June 5

Motor City Pride Weekend

Motor City Pride-Pride Parade, 11 a.m. Steps off at 11 a.m. and is open to any organization or business that would like to join. Applications online at motorcitypride.org/parade. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Motor City Pride-Family Area, 12 p.m. Dr. Dinosaur, face painting with Mr. Colors, puppet shows, arts and crafts. Motor City Pride, 2-48 Michigan 10, **Detroit**. 313-527-7000. motorcitypride.org

Wednesday, June 8

LGBT In the Park, 5:15 p.m. Social network for southeastern LGBT and allies to socialize through discussions and events. Meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month. June's meeting topic: Celebrating pride all year. LGBT in the Park, W. Woodward Heights, **Hazel Park**. jffryoliver@yahoo.com

TransCend, 6:30 p.m. Open to persons 18 and older. Younger are welcome with parent or guardian permission. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kglrc.org

Thusday, June 9

The Caregiver Support Group, 6 p.m. For more information please call or E-mail. Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian Resource Center, 629 Pioneer St., **Kalamazoo**. 269-349-4234. kglrc.org

Meet 'n Greet, 7 p.m. Meet new people, socialize and discuss age-relevant issues. Dinner at local restaurant afterwards. Ages 18-33. Metro Detroit LGBT 20Somethings, 222 E. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. the20somethings.org

Friday, June 10

"Why Cant I Tell Them I Have HIV?", 5 p.m. Gain valuable skills in managing some of the life issues that come from living with HIV. AIDS Partnership Michigan, 2751 East Jefferson, Suite 301, **Detroit**. 313-446-9820. Cpeeples@aidspartnership.org

Older Lesbians Organizing, 7 p.m. Provides older Lesbians with the chance to meet like minded women in their common struggles, to share mutual interests and to play and work together. Meets the 2nd Friday of every month. Older Lesbians Organizing, 319 Braun Court, **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. jasmithers@sbcglobal.net

The White Party, 9 p.m. One wristband purchase for access to four venues. Participating Bars: Party in the Park, Burchard Park; Esquire, 1250 Turner St.; Grand Cafe, 201 East Grand River Ave.; Spiral, 1247 Center St., Michigan Pride, **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Saturday, June 11

Michigan Pride-March to the Capitol, 11 a.m. Registration for floats & Vehicles are $25 each register online at michiganpride.org. Walkers are free. Michigan Pride, Grand Ave. between Schoolcraft and Shiawaee St., **Lansing**. michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride Festival, 11 a.m. Live entertainment such as Pop Goes the Gio Show, Kim Sorter, Sean Ensign, Baby Gaga, Melissa Totten and Sista Otis. Youth area with carnival games, a bounce house, playground & face painting. Open air bar, and a diverse array of for-profit as well as non-profit vendors offering rainbow merchandise, and information about resources for LBGTQ advocacy. Admission: $5, Free for members of Michigan Pride. Michigan Pride, Burchard Park, Old Town, **Lansing**. michiganpride.org

LGBT Older Adult Coalition, 12 p.m. Discussing solutions, such as advocating for non-discrimination policies and staff training at care facilities, creating affordable LGBT retirement communities, and mentoring young people to help support and learn from our elders. ACLU of Michigan, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, **Ferndale**. 248-398-7105. aclumich.org

Michigan Pride-Rally at the Capitol, 1 p.m. Statewide leaders delivering powerful and inspirational speeches to help us all focus our efforts in the next year. Michigan Pride, Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Michigan Pride-Commitment Ceremony, 1:45 p.m. Group Commitment Ceremony on the Capitol steps. Pre-registration available online, and during the Rally. Participants can expect to receive a certificate. No fee, but donations to the minister and church are appreciated. Michigan Pride, Capitol Ave., **Lansing**. Michiganpride.org

Kalamazoo Pride, 2 p.m. Co-hosts Adam F. Carter, and drag king G.Q. Joe. Performances from Le Souk Dance Company, folk duo Nervous but Excited and Dunyua Drummers. Keynote Speaker: Ignacio Rivera. Kalamazoo Pride, 145 E. Water St., **Kalamazoo**. kglrc.org/pride

Drag Queen Bingo, 8 p.m. "This ain't your grandma's bingo." Hosts Sabin, Trixie Deluxxe or September Murphy. Open to all 18+. Refreshments and bingo food fare. Reservations available by phone. Five15, 515 S. Washington St., **Royal Oak**. 248-515-2551. five15.net

Sunday, June 12

Metro Detroit LGBT Softball League Game, 10:30 a.m. Free parking and entry. Leashed pets are welcome, as well as refreshments, however no alcohol is permitted. MDSL, 1000 E. Hamlin Road, **Rochester Hills**. 586-945-4029. cchwarren@aol.com

PFLAG Detroit Meeting, 2 p.m. Support groups, social gathering, community announcements, program presentations, guest speakers, and dinner. Every 2nd Sunday of the month. 3333 Coolidge Hwy, **Troy**. 248-656-2875. pflagdetroit.org

Rainbow Book Club, 4:30 p.m. Book club dedicated to reading and discussing classic and contemporary lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer literature. Meeting since before 1998, every second Sunday of the month. Rainbow Book Club, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. catherine.herne@gmail.com

HARC provided HIV/AIDS Testing, 5 p.m. HARC provides anonymous and free HIV counseling, testing and referral services through its outreach at the Jim Toy Community Center. HARC, 319 Braun Ct., **Ann Arbor**. 734-678-2478. hivaidsresource.org/hiv-testing

MUSIC & MORE

BENEFITS/SOCIAL EVENTS

Flint Institute of Arts "An Artrageous Affair" Begins with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails followed by a strolling dinner with exotic Eastern flair and desserts all prepared by Executive Chef Luis Fernandes. Dancing to beats of notable DJ Rolando in Isabel Hall. For a more relaxed atmosphere, lounging in the open-air Hurand Sculpture Courtyard with the soothing sounds of live Eastern music. Reservations: $100. Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley, Flint. 7 p.m. June 4. 810-234-1695. flintarts.org

COMEDY

Live Nation "Chelsea Handler" Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me Tour Tickets: $49.50-69.50. The Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. April 2, 8 p.m. June 3. 313-471-6611. chelseahandler.com

Olympia Entertainment "Jay Mohr "Comedy Night Out"" Tickets: $35-38. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 9. 866-752-9622 . olympiaentertainment.com

Olympia Entertainment "The Ohio Players" Tickets: $30-33. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 10. 866-752-9622 . olympiaentertainment.com

CONCERTS

Black Iris "Earth" American musical group based in Seattle, WA, formed in 1989 and led by guitarist Dylan Carlson. Tickets: $10-12. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 9. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Detroit Derby Grils After Party "The Orbitsuns" Purveyors of low down and dirty outlaw country. Tickets: Free with Detroit Derby Girls ticket, $5 without.

Ford Field "Taylor Swift" Speak Now World Tour. Ford Field, 2000 Brush St., Detroit. 7 p.m. June 11. detroitlions.com/

ford-field/concerts-events.html

Magic Stick "Daniel Lanois' Black Dub" Canadian guitarist, vocalist and songwriter. Tickets: $25. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 9. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Magic Stick "Del the Funky Homosapien" American MC. Tickets: $15-18. Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 8. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Magic Stick "Joey Cape and the Bad Loud" Kill Rock Stars era influence of Elliott Smith and upbringing steeped in acoustic acts of Simon & Garfunkel. Tickets: $10-12. Magic Stick Lounge, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 13. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Majestic Theater "YeaSayer" Tickets: $20. Majestic Theater, 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 6. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

Michigan Opera Theatre Volunteer Association "BravoBravo" A fundraiser for the Michigan Opera Theatre with art, fashion and more. Tickets: $85, $125 VIP. Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit. 7:30 p.m. June 4, 7 p.m. June 3.

Olympia Entertainment "Sully Erna "The Avalon Tour"" Tickets: $29.50-$49.50. Sound Board Theater, 2901 Grand River Ave., Detroit. 8 p.m. June 3. 866-752-9622. olympiaentertainment.com

Pharoahs Treasure Box & 5 Mo Artists Detroit "5 Mo' Artists Detroit" A portion of the proceeds to Karibu House LGBT Urban Youth Resources. Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner Ave., Detroit. 6 p.m. June 4. 248-688-5178. 5moartistsdetroit2011.eventbrite.com

Royal Oak Music Theater "Robyn" Tickets: $20. Rescheduled from Feb. 9. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth St., Royal Oak. 7 p.m. June 4. 248-399-2980 . royaloakmusictheatre.com

Royal Oak Music Theater "Warren Haynes Band" Tickets: $29.50. Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W Fourth St, Royal Oak. 7 p.m. June 14. 248-399-2980 . royaloakmusictheatre.com

Something Cold "Martial Canerel" Electronic underground. Tickets: $8 Magic Stick, 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 11 p.m. June 3. 313-833-9700. majesticdetroit.com

The Ark "Suzanne Westenhoffer" Tickets:$26. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 3. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Tom Rush" Tickets:$30. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 7:30 p.m. June 10. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Bell X1" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 10. 734-761-1800. theark.org

The Ark "Gaelic Storm" Tickets: $22.50 The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 1. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "Lipbone Redding & the Lipbone Orchestra" Tickets: $15. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 4. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "Joe Ely" Tickets: $25. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 7. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "The Hillbenders" Tickets: $13.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 8. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Ark "The Boxcars" Tickets: $17.50. The Ark, 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. 8 p.m. June 15. 313-761-1818. theark.org

The Palace "Glee Live in Concert" Tickets: $52-95.50. Palace of Auburn Hills, 5 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. 7:30 p.m. June 13. 248-377-0100. palacenet.com

FESTIVALS

Pump House Concerts "Pumpstock American Roots Music Festival" Annual family friendly, neighborhood based festival. This year includes Breaking Southern Ground recording artists Sonia Leigh and Levi Lowrey and local Bluegrass favorites Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys. Face painters & jugglers will entertain. $10 suggested donation. Bailey Park, 300 Bailey St, East Lansing. 11 p.m. June 4. 517-927-2100.

OTHER

Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo "Love After Love" This original collaboration between dance, spoken word, and music explores love, memory and loss. Wellspring Theater in The Epic Center, 359 S. Kalamazoo Mall, Ste 204, Kalamazoo. June 2-June 5. 269-873-2833. web.me.com/r2millerdance/Site

Farmington Downtown Development Authority " Art on the Grand" Sample a selection of wines for $25. At the door purchase only. Full pour beers and wines will also be available on-site. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. 7 p.m. June 4. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org

Warren/Conner Development Coalition "Eastside Farmers Market" Fresh produce, healthy foods, and unique artisan items. Everything locally made and sold directly by the growers and producers. Accepts cash, Bridge Card, Double Up Food Bucks, WIC, Project Fresh, credit, and debit. Weekly music and entertainment. Mack Alter Square, 14820 Mack Ave. , Detroit . June 11-Oct. 1. 313-571-8200 ext. 1117. facebnook.com/eastsidefarmersmarket

THEATER

CIVIC/COMMUNITY THEATER

Hairspray $18-$20. Stagecrafters at Baldwin Theatre, 415 S. Lafayette Ave., Royal Oak. Through June 12. 248-541-6430. stagecrafters.org

Miss Saigon $17-$22. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre at Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 N. University, Ann Arbor. June 9-12. 734-971-2228. a2ct.org

Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 $14. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Dr., Lansing. June 2-12. 517-482-5700. riverwalktheatre.com

Rabbit Hole $18. Redbud Productions at Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. June 2-5. 734-663-7167. redbudproductions.com

The AKT Student Productions: An Evening of One Acts $10. The AKT Theatre Project at The Wyandotte Arts Center, 81 Chestnut St., Wyandotte. June 3-5. 734-258-8370. akttheatre.com

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY THEATER

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee $15. Eastern Michigan University Theatre at Sponberg Theatre in the Quirk Dramatic Arts Bldg., East Circle Dr. & Best Hall, Ypsilanti. June 3-11. 734-487-2282. emich.edu/emutheatre

PROFESSIONAL

Becky Shaw A staged reading. $5. Flint Youth Theatre, 1220 E. Kearsley St., Flint. 6 p.m. June 5. 810-237-1530. flintyouththeatre.org

Blood Brothers $25-$29. Farmers Alley Theatre, 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo. June 3-19. 269-343-2727. farmersalleytheatre.com

Cats $25-$50. Wharton Center, Michigan State University, East Lansing. June 10-11. 517-432-2000. whartoncenter.com

Crimes of the Heart $28-$30. Tipping Point Theatre, 361 E. Cady St., Northville. Through June 25. 248-347-0003. tippingpointtheatre.com

Eleemosynary $18-$24. Williamston Theatre, 122 S. Putnam Rd., Williamston. Through June 12. 517-655-7469. williamstontheatre.org

Endangered A Late Night Show. $10. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. June 3-18. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Ernie Written by Mitch Albom. $20-$25. City Theatre, 2301 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Through June 26. 313-471-6611. olympiaentertainment.com

Fridays and Saturdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Hot Dog Mondays $5. Planet Ant Theatre, 2357 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck. 313-365-4948. planetant.com

Looking for the Pony A Michigan premiere. $17 in advance; $20 at the door. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. June 2-26. 313-868-1347. detroitreptheatre.com

Love! Valour! Compassion! $10-$20. Who Wants Cake? at The Ringwald, 22742 Woodward Ave., Ferndale. Through June 6. 248-545-5545. whowantscaketheatre.com

Next Fall Previews June 2-5 & 9. $22-$41. Performance Network Theatre, 120 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor. June 2-July 3. 734-663-0681. performancenetwork.com

Opera at The Acorn $25. The Acorn Theater, 107 Generations Dr., Three Oaks. 8 p.m. June 4. 269-756-3879. acorntheater.com

Steel Magnolias $16. The Box Theater, 51 N. Walnut, Mount Clemens. Through June 5. 586-954-2311. theboxtheater.com

Sundays at Go Comedy! $7 for the night. Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

The Great Big Bar Show $20. Barn Theatre, 13351 W. M-96, Augusta. Through June 12. 269-731-4121. barntheatre.com

The Lady With All the Answers $18-$24. Stormfield Theatre, 201 Morgan Lane, Lansing. Through June 5. 517-372-0945. stormfieldtheatre.org

The Last Five Years $15-20; $49.95-$59.95 dinner show tickets per couple. Andiamo Novi Theatre, 42705 Grand River Ave., Novi. Through June 25. 248-348-4448. andiamonovitheatre.com

The Last Five Years $22. The Encore Musical Theatre, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Through June 5. 734-268-6200. theencoremusicaltheatre.org

The Model Apartment $32-$41. The Jewish Ensemble Theatre at Aaron DeRoy Theatre at the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Rd., West Bloomfield. Through June 5. 248-788-2900. jettheatre.org

The Tempest $15-$25. Blackbird Theatre at West Park, Seventh Ave. & Miller Rd., Ann Arbor. June 10-25. 734-332-3848. blackbirdtheatre.org

Thursdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

Wednesdays at Go Comedy! Go Comedy! Improv Theater, 261 E. Nine Mile Rd., Ferndale. 248-327-0575. gocomedy.net

ART'N' AROUND

Ann Arbor Art Center "the PRINT " This exhibition aims to educate the community about the different techniques and styles of printmaking by displaying the works of a variety of talented artists. Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty St., Ann Arbor. May 9-June 26. 734-994-8004. annarborartcenter.org

Berkley Chamber of Commerce "Berkley Art Bash" Party in downtown Berkley for amazing art, fabulous food, live music & fun activities for kids. More information online. Downtown Berkley on Twelve Mile, 3117 W. 12 Mile Road, Berkley. 9 a.m. June 11. 248-414-7222. BerkleyArtBash.com

Cass Cafe "5w-30" Three-artist exhibit within the Cass Cafe thought of as a synonym for a sort of psychological endurance typified by living in Detroit and Michigan. Cass Cafe, 4620 Cass Ave., Detroit. April 16-June 11. 313-831-1400. casscafe.com

Craig Mitchell Smith Glass Gallery "Glass in the Garden" Display of larger than life glass art in the garden. Admission: $5. Dow Gardens, Midland MI, 1809 Eastman Ave., Midland. May 22-July 31. 800-362-4874. dowgardens.org

Cranbrook Art Museum "Saarinem House and Garden" Rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature. Designed in the late 1920s, Saarinen House served as the home and studio of the Finnish-American designer Eliel Saarinen and Loja Saarinen from 1930 through 1950. Cranbrook Art Museum, 39221 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. May 2-Sep. 30. 877-462-7262. cranbrookart.edu

Downriver Council for the Arts "Jured Photography Exhibit" The DCA is accepting entries for a jured photography exhibit at the Wyandotte Arts Center. Professional and amateur photographers can submit up to four entries. A non-refundable $15 entry fee is required for all entries. Exhibit begins Sept. 8. Wyandotte Arts Center, 2306 4th St., Wyandotte. May 1-Aug. 31. 734-324-7278.

Eastern Michigan University "Molly Marie Nuzzo Art Exhibit" Molly Marie Nuzzo is an Ypsilanti-based painter whose award-winning work has been exhibited regionally and nationally. Her recent drawings and paintings use portraiture to investigate the embodiment of queer identities and question the gender binary. EMU University Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. May 23-June 3. 734-487-1268. art.emich.edu

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Farmington Farmers & Artisans Market" Each Saturday. Fresh Michigan produce, baked goods, locally-produced honey, hand-crafted soaps and emollients, fine art and jewelry, photography and a variety of unique, artisan-made products. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. May 28-Oct. 29. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org/Downtown-Events/Whats-Happening/Farmers-Artisans-Market

Farmington Downtown Development Authority "Art on the Grand" Juried fine arts fair. The artist booth area is presented by the Farmington Hills Special Services Department's Cultural Arts Division in partnership with the Farmington Downtown Development Authority. Art on the Grand showcases over 100 fine artists and crafts persons from across the country, working in various media, including paintings, sculpture, fiber, ceramics, glass, photography, and more. Walter E. Sundquist Pavilion, 33113 Grand River Ave., Farmington. June 3-June 5. 248-473-7276. downtownfarmington.org

Henry Ford Museum "Discovering the Civil War" Tickets: $15 adults, $11 youth. Henry Ford Museum, 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn. May 21-Sep. 5. 313-982-6001. thehenryford.org

Kalamazoo Institute of Arts "Portrait and Presence" Contemporary portraiture pursues a complex and personal approach to the genre's traditional representation of the subject's visage and social identity. Admission: Free. Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, 314 S. Park St., Kalamazoo. May 1-July 20. 269-349-7775. kiarts.org

MOCAD "barely there" Group exhibition featuring James Lee Byars, Luis Camnitzer, Jason Dodge, Pable Helguera, Christoph Keller, Lee Loazno, Rivane and Sergio, Neuenschwander, Wilfredo Prieto, Pascale Marthine Tayou and Adolf Wolfli. Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit. May 27-July 31. 313-832-6622. mocadetroit.org

Riverside Arts Center "Ypsi Style" The gallery will display this year's designs by the Y Collective, a group of EMU students. And also host a runway show called "Ypsi Style." Riverside Art Center, 931 Sherman Ct, Ypsilanti. 6 p.m. June 10. riversidearts.org

The Scarab Club "Blooms, Bugs, Beasts" Popular annual exhibition at the Scarab Club for many years. The theme of the juried exhibition is flowers, insects, animals, landscapes and seascapes. Scarab Gallery, 217 Farnsworth, Detroit. May 18-June 25. 313-831-1250. scarabclub.org

University of Michigan "Amalia Pica" London-based Argentinian artist's investigations into perception, time, and memory, as well as a desire to explore how particular gestures read in different cultural contexts, pursued across a diverse body of work in sculpture, photography, film, and installation, as well as temporary interventions on buildings, monuments, and objects. University of Michigan Museum of Art, 525 South State St.,, Ann Arbor. May 28-Sep. 18. 734-763-4186.

Affirmations Family Carnival & Annual Pride Picnic

June 4
12-2pm

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for more information contact
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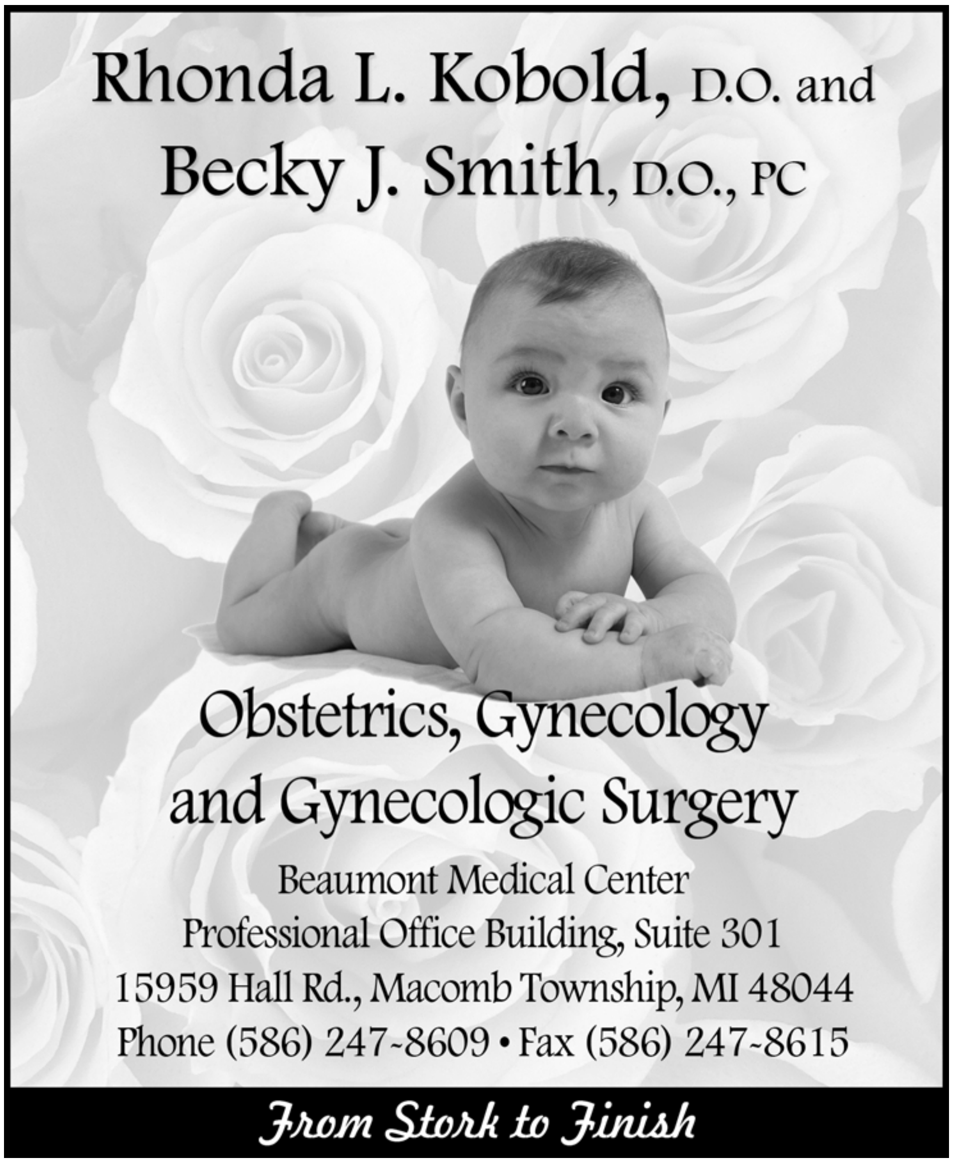

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From Stork to Finish

BTL Dear Jody

BY JODY VALLEY

Finding friends

Q. Jody, I am having a problem and don't know what to do about it. I can't talk to friends because I don't have any. That's my problem – no friends. I moved to this area after high school (about a year ago), thinking that if I just lived somewhere that there were other gays, I would fit in and have friends.

I have always been effeminate and, most of my life, been made fun of. Growing up I didn't have friends because I was different than everyone else. I've known that I was gay ever since I can remember; I don't even know how I knew, I just did. I always knew I was attracted to men because I had crushes on male teachers and fellow students. I never talked about being gay, but everyone around me seemed to know. Even my parents guessed and kept telling me everything would be OK someday. I have never met any other gays because I lived in a small town that didn't have any gay people. I've, of course, seen them on TV, read about them and done lots of research on the computer. I got through school thinking it would all be OK if I just lived somewhere else. Now I don't know what to do because I still haven't found friends and I still don't feel that I fit. I have a job working at a construction company. (Believe it or not, I am really good at building things.) Most of the people I work with are nice, but I don't do anything with them after work, mostly because they don't ask me. And, a few of the guys make fun of me, calling me "girly" when they want something.

Right now my life is pretty much about working 10 hours a day and then going home, watching TV and then going to bed. In the summer I sometimes work seven days a week so I have plenty to do. The good thing in my life right now is that I am mostly not being made fun of, but the bad thing is that I am lonely and don't know why I can't make friends. I am afraid that life will always be like this.

What can I do to make people like me and want to be my friend?

Friendless and Lonely

A. Making friends is not an easy task when you move to a new town. It takes everyone a while to fit in and find their niche. It sounds like you haven't been doing anything but working and going home to bed. That doesn't help.

I don't know where you live so I can't give you specifics about where to go to find other gays. But no matter where you are, it is important that you find out where like-minded individuals hang out, and then spend time there. You may want to look into liberal religious organizations – if religion is of interest to you – in your area; it is a good place to meet young people, whether or not they are gay. Some, but not all, churches that you might investigate are: Unitarian Universalist Church – for people building their own spiritually, wherever that leads them – or liberal Christian churches, such as Church of Christ, the Metropolitan Church and liberal synagogues or other religious groups that would be accepting of LGBT folks.

You can also look in Between The Lines to see what activities are going on in your area, or visit www.pridesource.com. Do web searches for the area that you live in to find out what's going on. Joining groups of people who have like-interests is a good thing to do, and provides an easy setting for getting to know others. Once you hook up with a group, people will be able to tell you other things that are happening in your area. See if there are any "coming out" groups or other groups that support LGBT people.

My guess is that given the isolation you have felt and experienced while growing up, you probably didn't develop many social skills, so you may not have a lot of self-confidence in social situations. Social skills develop over time, so it will be important for you to go slow in finding your way in the gay community. Focus on safe places to explore friendship, who you are and your sexuality. Good luck, and let me know how you're doing.

Want some tips in making friends in social situations? Go to Dear Jody Valley at Facebook.

Jody Valley spent 12 years as a clinical social worker. She worked with the LGBT community both as a counselor and a workshop leader in the areas of coming out, self-esteem and relationship issues. Reach Jody at DearJodyValley@hotmail.com. The "Dear Jody" column appears weekly.

The show
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BTL

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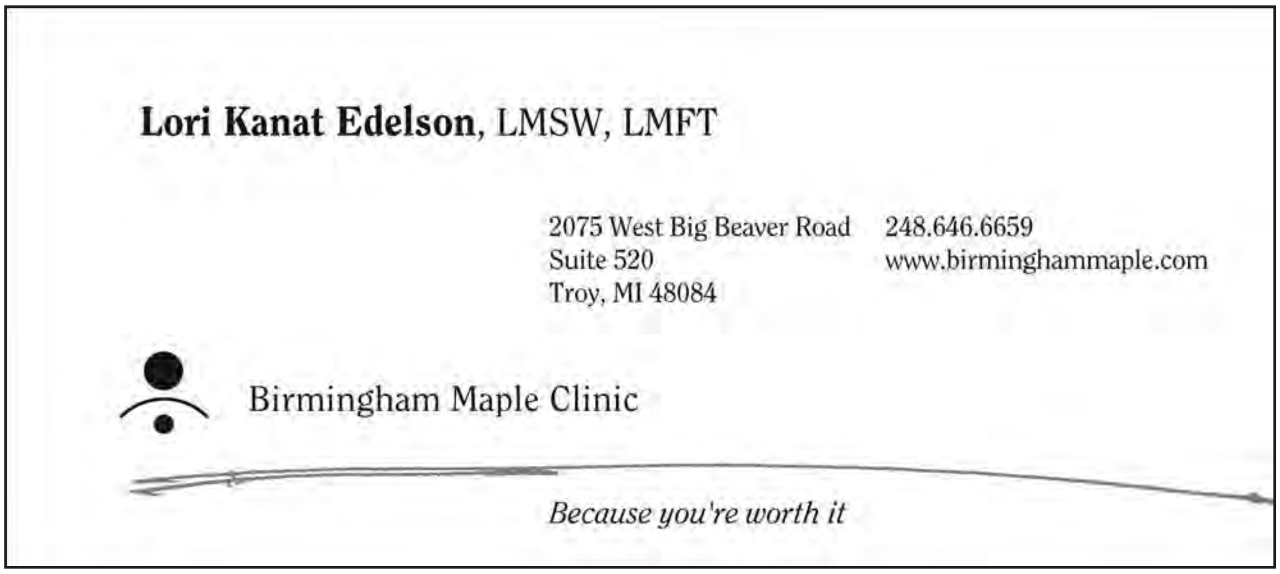

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Sing out, Pisces!

BY JACK FERTIG

Mercury squaring Neptune in Pisces while entering Gemini inflates wonderfully imaginative notions. Jupiter entering Taurus could ground them and find profitable applications. Jupiter in Taurus for the next year "should" be good for the economy. It will be good for bankers at least.

ARIES (March 20 – April 19): Your recent lucky spree will now focus more on financial fortune. How? Mad dreams and inspirations offer some clues. Talk out your crazy notions with your friends and find a way to bring them to the bank!

TAURUS (April 20 – May 20): Recent hard times are about to turn around. How to cash in on your good fortune? You can turn your friends' craziest suggestions into practical ideas. Inspirations now can point the way to future fulfillment of your dreams.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20): It's time to get creative. You have some big challenges coming up in the next year. Your intuition is now unusually sharp to see how you can turn those into opportunities. Spiritual guidance can be especially helpful now.

CANCER (June 21- July 22): Dreams can lure you too easily into never-never-lands of fantasy and escape. Sharing some of those phantasmagorical reveries with friends can help you find some practical outlet for them.

LEO (July 23 – August 22): Remember the difference between dreams and goals! Friends encouraging you to chase after your dreams offer some helpful inspiration, but a little of that can go a long way. Don't let them distract you from practical, achievable aims.

VIRGO (August 23 – September 22): Your brain is buzzing with schemes for success. Your partner is likely to encourage all your wildest ideas. Sweet, but wrong! You need a leveler head with a bit of critical distance to give you pragmatic advice.

LIBRA (September 23 – October 22): Expansive, fortunate Jupiter is starting a year in your house of sex and other profound challenges. The deeper you go the greater the rewards. Don't be shy on either count. Neither is without risks, but Jupiter is good to have on your side!

SCORPIO (October 23 – November 21): You and your sweetie are due for a bit of frolic. That could open up some questions and confusion. Keeping communications clear and aboveboard could be a small challenge. The rewards are well worth it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 – December 20): Job opportunities are opening up for you. Have faith in yourself. If familial encouragement is unrealistic, don't worry about letting them down by "settling" for what's in the real world. If you're happy, they will be too.

CAPRICORN (December 21 – January 19): Usually better focused, you're way too open to distractions and thus, accidents. Mediation, poetry, music and/or art will help you get back into balance. Take classes in any of those fields. You need new ways of seeing the world.

AQUARIUS (January 20 – February 18): Financial investments are especially risky now. If something feels just right it could win big, but don't put in any more than you can afford to lose. First ask yourself, what would mother advise? Then ask, is her advice reliable?

PISCES (February 19 – March 19): Sing out, Louise! Whatever you have to offer, make it heard and known! Your family will back you up in your endeavors, but you really need to be very clear on who you are and what it is you've got.

Jack Fertig, a professional astrologer since 1977, is available for personal and business consultations in person in San Francisco, or online everywhere. He can be reached at 415-864-8302, through his website at www.starjack.com, and by email at QScopes@qsyndicate.com.

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Solution to puzzle from page 86

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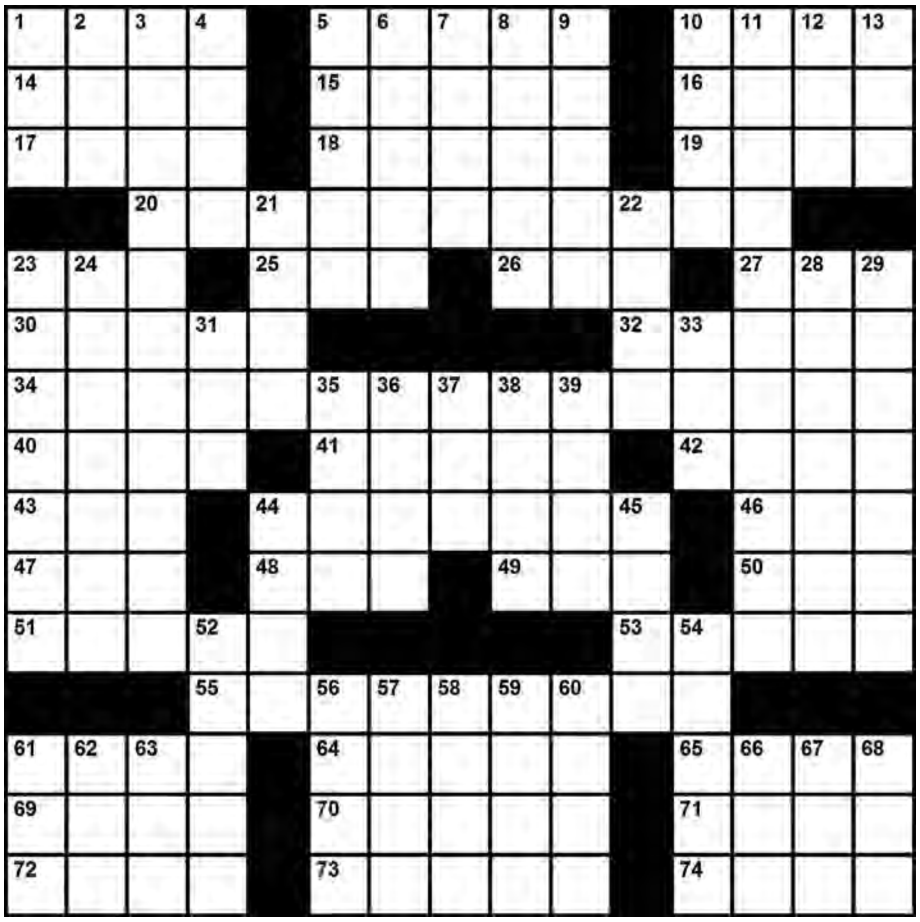
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Getting in Gear for Dick

Across

1 "You are all a ___ generation" (Stein)
5 Family name of Boy George
10 Online auction site
14 Piece of Aaron Copland
15 Sal of _Rebel Without a Cause_
16 High flat area
17 Cole Porter's Indiana hometown
18 "You can't teach ___ dog ..."
19 Like a squid's defense
20 Start of a quote from Cam on "Modern Family"
23 Big diamond
25 Mouth-open-wide sound
26 1 of 100 in DC
27 Short one for Morse
30 Ferries, for example
32 Total agreement
34 More of the quote
40 Miss Lane of The Planet
41 Poet Lorde
42 Pink Triangle Press publication
43 Conversational hesitations
44 More of the quote
46 Magneto portrayer McKellen
47 Butterfly catcher
48 Hrs. in Key West
49 Snake's warning
50 Mel of Giants fame
51 Ford lemon that was not fruitful
53 The sounds of music
55 End of the quote
61 Roman deity identified with Diana
64 Butler's burden on the stairway
65 Ginsberg's "Gotcha"
69 Ever so slightly
70 Vidal's "___ to a Small Planet"
71 Baja abode
72 Calendar boxes
73 Nice buns, for example
74 Frequent award for Neil Patrick Harris

Down

1 Be a branch manager?
2 Uncork, to Shakespeare
3 Some contemporaries of Lorca
4 Poet Kitty
5 Marlon Brando's hometown
6 Shore of Palm Springs
7 "You want the light ___ off?"
8 Joins with a torch
9 Artful move, in "Oliver!"
10 Islamic leader
11 Prayer at Metropolitan Community Church
12 "Don't ___ me!"
13 "Huzzah!"
21 Item on a docket
22 "No mo'!" to Gomer
23 Chisholm Trail town
24 In pink, for example
28 Keep saying
29 Rulers like Caligula
31 USA alternative
33 Give a thumbs-down to
35 Retreat for D.H. Lawrence
36 Linda of "The Year of Living Dangerously"
37 August hrs. in Augusta
38 Heavenly balls
39 Some escorts want them up front
44 Cut
45 Movie dog
52 "Great Caesar's ghost!"
54 Not straight up?
56 Blazing star
57 Anything but that
58 Cumming in drag?
59 Great Lakes city
60 Damon of "The Bourne Identity"
61 "When I was a ___ ..."
62 Actress Hagen
63 Anti's answer
66 Beaver job
67 Homoerotic tail?
68 "... pretty, witty, and ___"

Solution on 85

Pet of the Week

Meet Magenta! A 2-month-old Shar Pei/Shepherd mix, this rambunctious young pup is just 13 pounds and loves to play! She still has plenty of growing to do, but if you're looking for a new best friend, Magenta is your girl. Come meet her today! The adoption fee includes sterilization, age-appropriate vaccinations and much more. For more information, call or visit the Michigan Humane Society's Rochester Hills Center for Animal Care at (248) 852-7420 and be sure to provide the pet ID number, 13078049.

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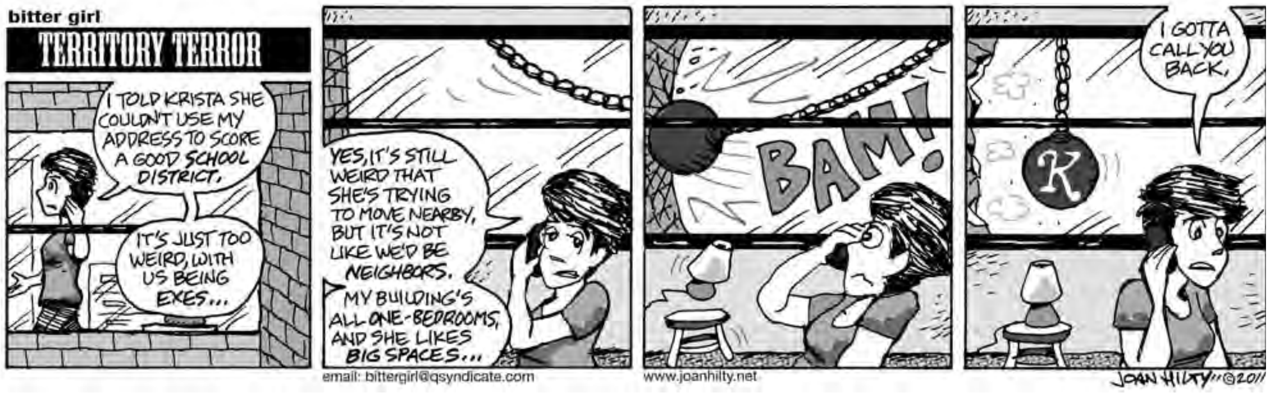
bitter girl
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IT'S JUST TOO WEIRD, WITH US BEING EXES...
YES, IT'S STILL WEIRD THAT SHE'S TRYING TO MOVE NEARBY, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE'D BE NEIGHBORS.
MY BUILDING'S ALL ONE-BEDROOMS, AND SHE LIKES BIG SPACES...
BAM!
K
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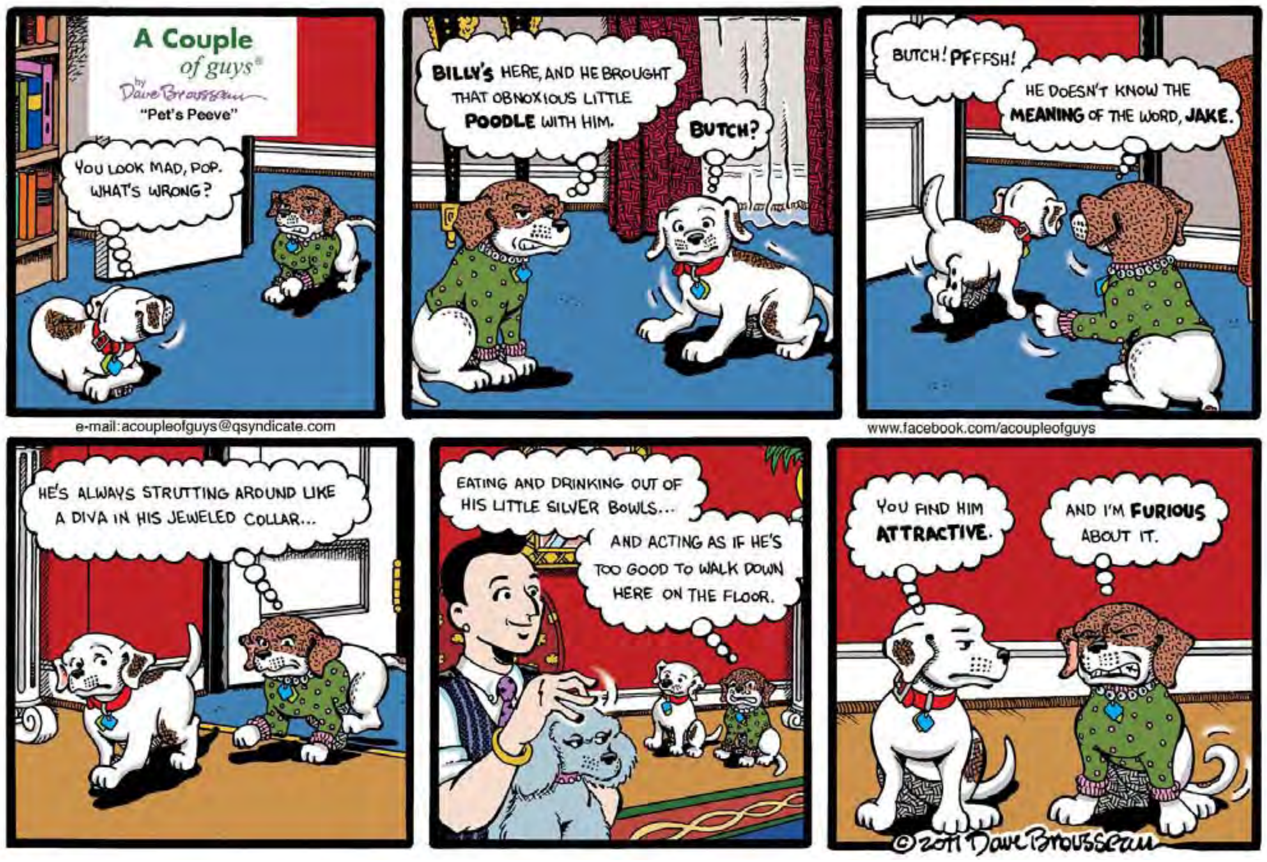
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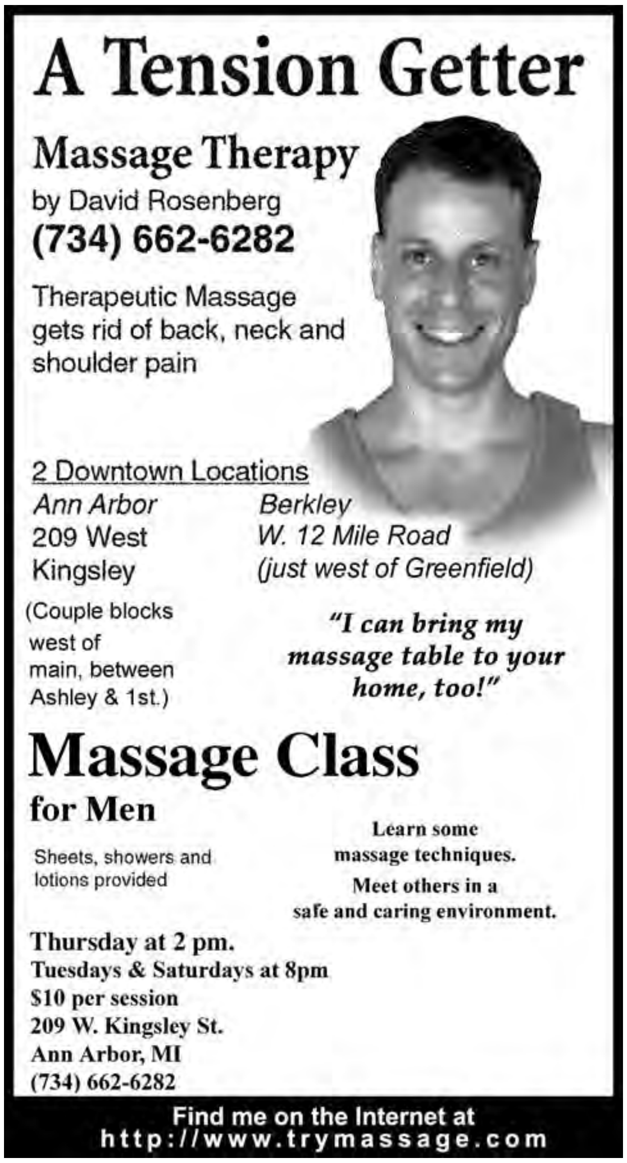
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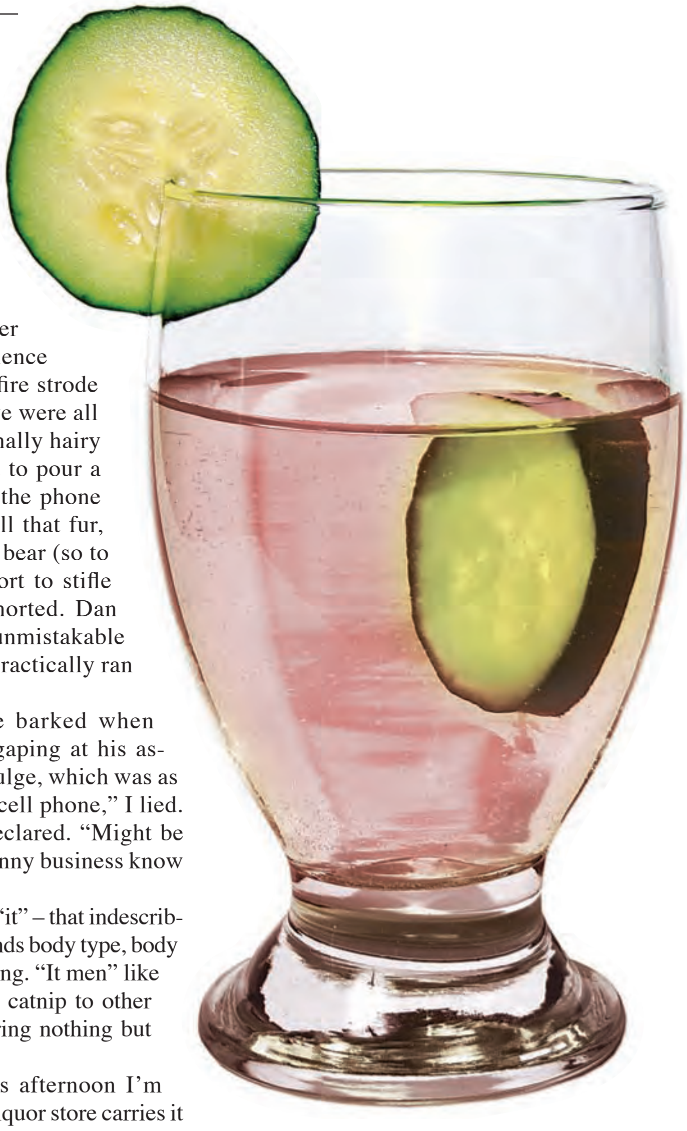
BTL Cocktail Chatter

The Pimm's Cup

BY ED SIKOV



"I put down $250 on Billy Joe oh everybody's up I'll call you back is there coffee I smell it yeah! Bye! Great!" Phil Levine bounded down the stairs dressed only in a black leather jockstrap to which he had affixed a matching cellphone holster. Dan, Paolo, Chipper and I stared in shocked silence as the hypermasculine spitfire strode toward us. Seconds later, we were all introduced to his phenomenally hairy ass when he turned around to pour a mug of coffee. What with the phone strapped to the strap and all that fur, the vision was too much to bear (so to speak), and in a failed effort to stifle a laugh, I involuntarily snorted. Dan glared at me but with an unmistakable smirk. Paolo and Chipper practically ran toward the deck.

"What?" Phil Levine barked when he turned and caught me gaping at his astounding leather-covered bulge, which was as bull-like as his ego. "Your cell phone," I lied. "Never without it," Phil declared. "Might be business on the other end funny business know what I mean?"

Damn! Phil Levine has "it" – that indescribable erotic allure that transcends body type, body hair, facial features, everything. "It men" like Phil are pheromone-reeking catnip to other guys. Especially when wearing nothing but a leather jock.

"The Preakness is this afternoon I'm making Pimm's Cups if the liquor store carries it they'd better it's standard stuff and I assume you can get decent cucumbers at the Pantry…." "Of course you can," I broke in. "But aren't Pimm's Cups a summer drink?"

"Eat me," replied Phil Levine with a grin as he grabbed his enormous package. Then his cell phone rang – the ringtone was "Theme from 'The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.'" He yammered away about the $250 he had riding on Billy Joe and told whoever it was to come over in 20 minutes; he had to take a shower. Then again maybe he wouldn't…. He snickered lewdly and hung up, seized his coffee and sped upstairs, presumably to generate more body odor.

Dan's mouth was slightly open as he stared in the direction Phil's hairy rear had just taken. He had a distinctly guilty look about him. "Well, it *is* nicely proportioned," he tried, but I cut him off. "He runs around the house in licensed Verizon-accessory fetishwear. That damn horse should jump off the Tallahatchie Bridge." "What?" Dan asked in confusion. "I don't know what you're talking about half the time." "'Papa said to Mama as he passed around the black-eyed pea-ee-ee-eas….'" I explained. "I give up," Dan muttered sadly and headed for the deck.

The liquor store came through with the Pimm's, of course, and the Pines Pantry had cukes galore – waxed ones, the wrapped European kind, Kirbies…. Phil's Pimm's Cups were perfect. I couldn't stand it. So as we crowded around the television to watch the Preakness – "we" included the stunningly beautiful Malaysian boy who'd spent the day and who now sat on Phil's lap – I had to be just a little snide. "The Pimm's Cups are terrific, Phil," I said. "Too bad it's such a chilly afternoon." There was cosmic justice to back me up: Billy Joe came in fifth.

The Pimm's Cup

2 ounce Pimm's #1

Ginger Ale to taste (Canada Dry is fine, but be a snob and use one with a stronger ginger flavor)

Thin slices of cucumber

Pour the Pimm's into a tall glass filled with ice; top off with ginger ale. Garnish with a cucumber slice.

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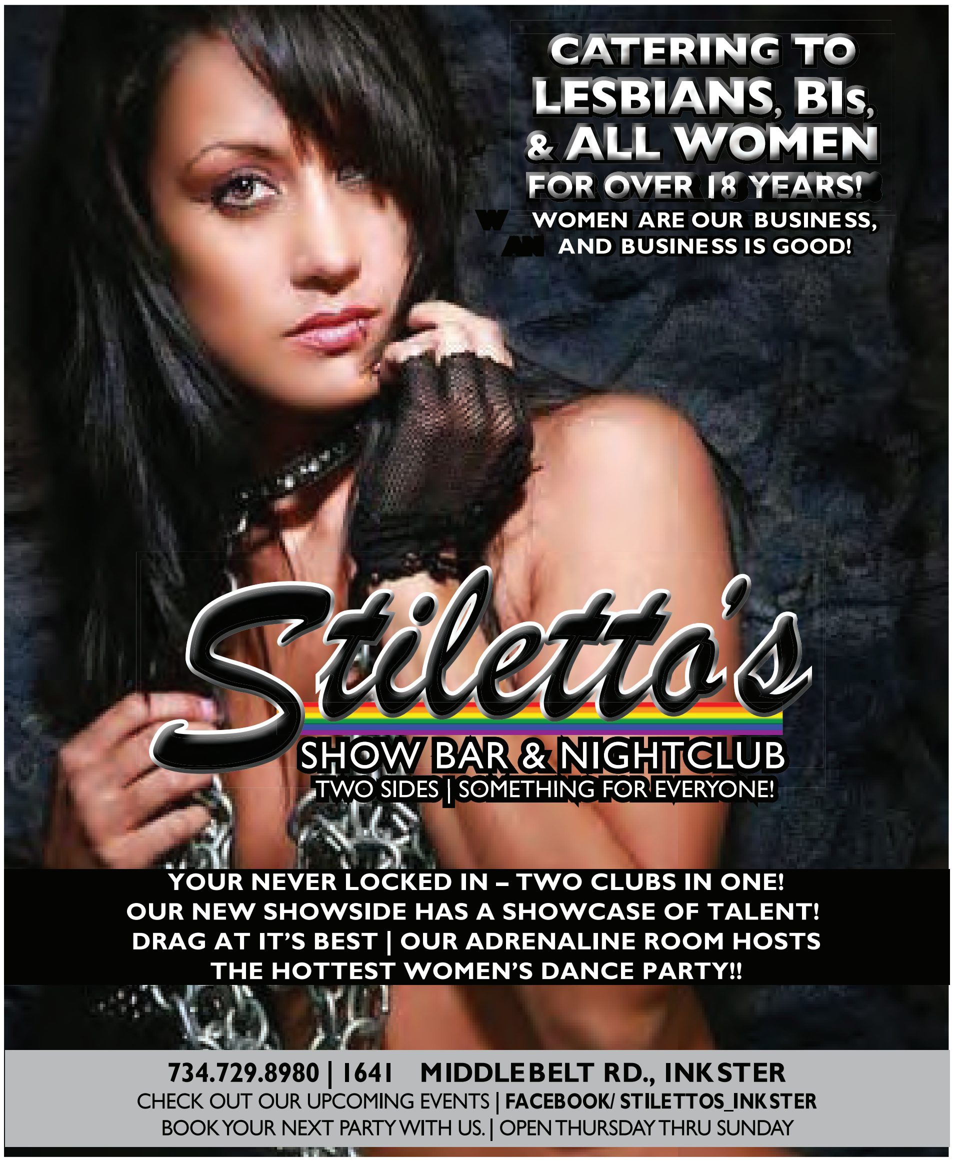
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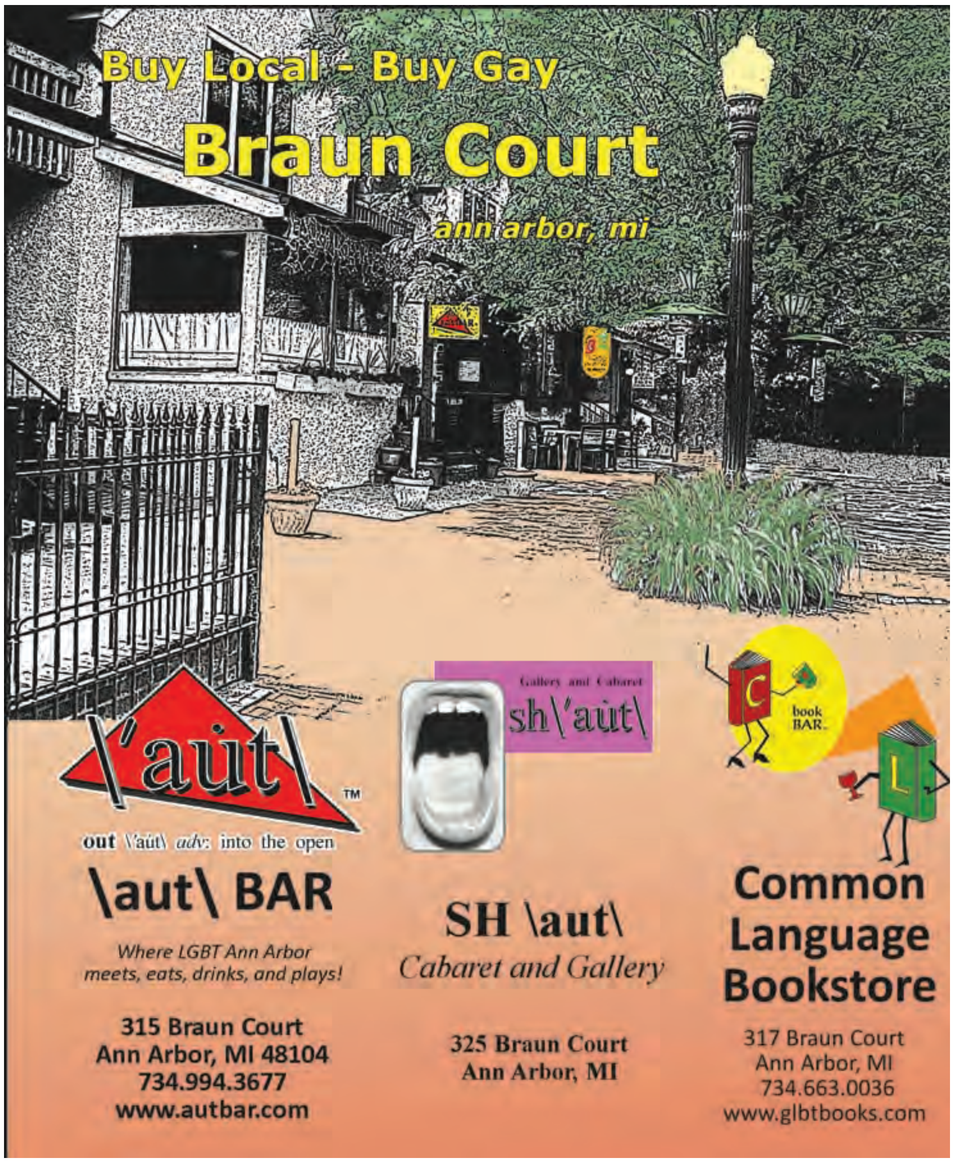
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Photo: Columbia Pictures

'Paperboy' delivering McConaughey and Efron

Two high-profile gay filmmakers collaborating on a sexy thriller? That's the news with "The Paperboy," a feature being produced by Pedro Almodovar and directed by the officially-way-overbooked Lee Daniels ("Precious"). Based on the 1995 Pete Dexter novel of the same name, it's set to star Tobey Maguire, Zac Efron, "Modern Family" bombshell Sofia Vergara and Matthew McConaughey (who's sticking with the thriller scripts for now in spite of "The Lincoln Lawyers"'s so-so box office). The plot concerns a "Miami Times" reporter who returns to his Florida hometown to investigate a story involving a death row inmate. This could turn out to be great; Almodovar knows style and Daniels knows real-life grittiness, so the end result will be interesting to look at, at least. And wouldn't it be cool if Efron or Vergara were the one playing the person on death row? OK, maybe "cool" is the wrong word. "Refreshingly weird" then. How's that?

Kat Dennings: From 'Thor' to 'Broke'

She smart-alecked her way through "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" and she's currently doing it again in "Thor," which can only mean that Kat Dennings has wisecracking sitcom queen written all over her. And if comic Whitney Cummings and "Sex and the City"'s Michael Patrick King have their way, she will be when "Two Broke Girls" hits TV screens later this year. Dennings will star alongside newcomer Beth Behrs as a couple of New York twentysomethings – one formerly rich and one who's never known money – who work in a diner. You can call it "Sex and the City" for women who have to work two weeks to earn what a part of Louboutins cost or a modern recession-based "Laverne & Shirley." Whatever you do, don't call it cancelled after one episode. That kind of broke isn't funny.

'Glee': Fact and fiction

It's not a fresh new week without something "Glee"-related happening somewhere and this week's installment is a good one. If it's true, that is. But widely-discussed rumor has it that Daniel Radcliffe, currently appearing on Broadway in a revival of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," might wind up on the still-under-wraps season finale that takes place in NYC. No one will confirm or deny what's really going on, but his IMDB page already lists the credit and, even if it's not true, it succeeds in maximizing "Glee" mania until the airdate. Meanwhile, it's definitely true that Max Adler, who plays everyone's favorite terrified gay jock/bully/prom king Dave Karovsky, will appear in the upcoming horror comedy "Detention of the Dead." A "Breakfast Club"-meets-zombies tale, it takes place at a high school where the only people who haven't turned undead are the ones locked in detention. The smart money is on the survival of whatever character is most like Molly Ringwald.

'Project Runway' to spawn more 'Project Runway'

Still going reasonably strong after a couple of dud seasons and a lawsuit (and whatever "Models of The Runway" was), "Project Runway" is about to give birth to fraternal twins. Two new competition shows, "Project Runway: Masters" and "Project Runway: Accessories" are heading to Lifetime, presumably in the hopes of continuing to rebuild the "Runway" brand after its shaky landing at the network. "Masters" seems the most promising because it will pit established name designers against each other (dream battle: the Rodarte girls versus the Olsen Twins in a hipster cagefighting match). But what will "Accessories" do to fill an hour after each designer has already created a really big scarf? Let's just hope Heidi Klum is available to crack the whip for all three shows. They might need it.

Romeo San Vicente thinks those little fedora-style hats are automatic dealbreakers. He can be reached care of this publication or at DeepInsideHollywood@qsyndicate.com.

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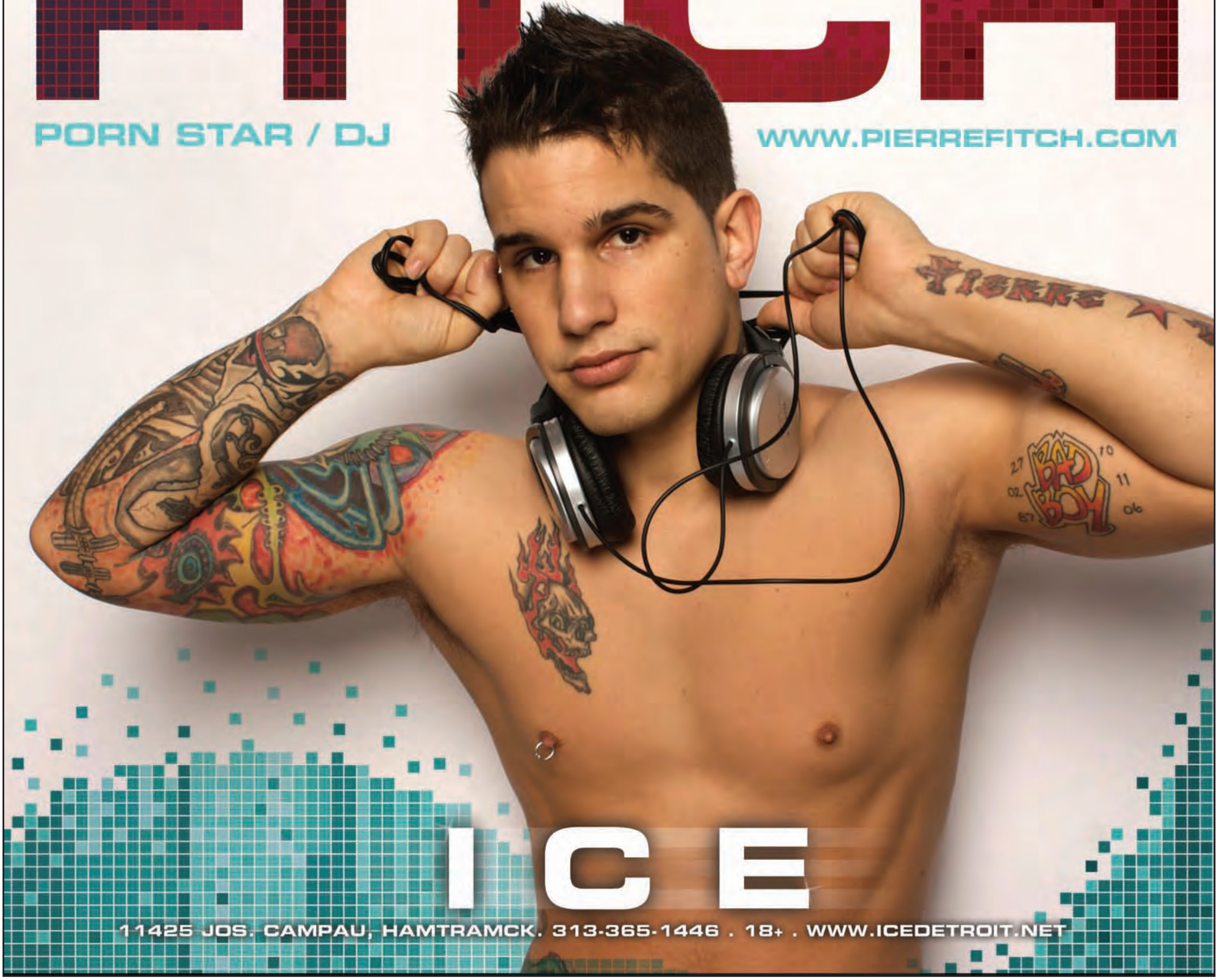

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